

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, COLETTA ZAPATA,
DURKAN, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, SANTANA, WEBER,
WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING HERO SQUARES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: A Hero Square is a designated square or intersection honoring the memory of service members on behalf of our city and country. Hero Squares celebrate their sacrifices and educate local communities about the history of service in their own neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS: In 1898, the City of Boston established its first Hero Square in honor of Admiral George Dewey after his leadership in the victory of the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War. His death in 1917 signified a great loss for the nation, and Dewey Square served as a place for the people of Boston to reflect on his service; *and*

WHEREAS: Since the establishment of Dewey Square, the City has established over 1,200 Hero Squares across Boston. In 2013, the City added a biography and a QR code to each Hero Square plaque that leads to more information about the veteran. With a large veteran and military family population in Boston, it is critical that the City continues to raise awareness about its resources. The process for families to establish their own Hero Square for their loved one is a relatively straightforward process, and raising public awareness may help to make them more prevalent in our neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS: To apply for a Hero Square in the City, one must gather required documentation including copies of DD-214 and proof of KIA if applicable. Then, complete the City of Boston Veterans' Services Department application form online with details such as the requester's name, relationship to the veteran, contact information, and type of request. Next, one may propose a suitable and historically significant location, submit the completed application and supporting documents to the Veterans' Services Department, and follow up to ensure receipt and review of the application. Upon approval, the applicant would look to coordinate with city officials for design, installation, and the dedication ceremony to honor a designated veteran's contributions; *and*

WHEREAS: Establishing Hero Squares honors our service members and strengthens Boston's dedication to preserving its military history. To ensure these contributions are recognized, it is crucial for the City Council to work closely with the Office of Veterans Services to enhance public awareness, make it easier for families to commemorate their loved ones, and maintain the city's rich legacy of honoring those who sacrificed for our country; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the process of establishing Hero Squares in the City of Boston.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025