

Offered by City Councilor Ayanna Pressley, Janey, Ciommo, Edwards, Baker, Flaherty, Flynn
McCarthy, O'Malley, Wu, Zakim and Campbell



CITY OF BOSTON

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO LISTEN TO COMMUNITIES
IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA**

WHEREAS, Gun violence is a public health crisis and epidemic that is experienced at various levels throughout the City of Boston; and

WHEREAS, A majority of shootings happen in a cluster of just three neighborhoods: Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan; and

WHEREAS, The disparity in exposure to violence can be attributed to factors like generational poverty, structural racism, low performing schools, mass incarceration and an inequity of opportunity, which can create the conditions for violence and trauma to take root; and

WHEREAS, It is also an issue that extends beyond any one community due to instances of domestic violence, mass shootings, firearm accidents, and suicide; and

WHEREAS, Exposure to violence is linked to a variety of behavioral and mental health challenges like anger and dissociation, anxiety and depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD); and

WHEREAS, Violence begets violence — witnessing violence or being the victim of it can predispose children and young people to further engage in violent behavior, causing the cycle of violence to continue; and

WHEREAS, Addressing violence and trauma is a challenge for the whole city, but it must be done in partnership with and by listening to the communities most impacted by it.

THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to understand the challenges faced by communities impacted by violence and trauma and gather their recommendations regarding the City's response system; and that such communities be invited to testify; and that representatives from the Mayor's Office, Boston Police Department,

Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Public Schools, Boston Center for Youth and Families, Suffolk County District Attorney's office, Suffolk County Sheriff's office, Boston Medical Center, Faith-based organizations and response teams, and other interested parties be invited to actively listen.

Filed: November 7, 2018