

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD FLYNN and COUNCILOR ANDREA J. CAMPBELL
Ciommo Essaibi-George Edwards Flaherty Garrison Janey O'Malley Wu and Zakim



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND SEXUAL ASSAULT IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** The issues of domestic violence and sexual assault remain prevalent in our society including in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS:** According to data compiled by Jane Doe, Inc., the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, and the 2010 National Intimate Partner Survey, Massachusetts was on par with national averages; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In Massachusetts, nearly 1 in 2 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence with nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men having experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner, and more than 1 in 7 women having experienced rape; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Between July 1, 2011 and June 30, 2012, a total of 2,337 unduplicated incidents of sexual assaults were actually reported to rape crisis centers across Massachusetts; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Eleven percent (11%) of high school students and six percent (6%) of middle school students reported being physically hurt by a date sometime in their life; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Between 2003 and December 31, 2012, Jane Doe, Inc. identified 266 victims of domestic violence related homicides and an additional 74 domestic violence homicide perpetrator deaths in Massachusetts; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault are underreported especially by immigrants, members of the LGBTQ community, and those who may be hesitant to contact law enforcement; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss opportunities to provide support for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault, ways to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault in our City, solutions for increasing reporting opportunities for all communities, as well as other ways to educate the public to increase awareness about the prevalence of this behavior. Representatives from the Boston Police Department, Health and Human Services, the Boston Public Health Commission, and other relevant departments and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

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