

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PUBLIC HEALTH
DISPARITIES IN BOSTON'S COMMUNITIES OF COLOR**

- WHEREAS:** The Boston Public Health Commission's most recent *Health of Boston* report finds that African American, Asian American, and Latino residents of Boston are significantly more likely than White residents to suffer from poor public health outcomes; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Compared with White residents, Black residents experience higher rates of preterm births, low birthweight births, infant mortality, asthma emergency department (ED) visits, obesity, hypertension, hepatitis B, tuberculosis, influenza, HIV infection, diabetes hospitalizations and deaths, heart disease hospitalizations, and assault-related ED discharges; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Compared with White residents, Asian residents experience higher rates of low birthweight births, hepatitis B, and tuberculosis; and are less likely to complete pap tests, mammograms, and sigmoidoscopy/colonoscopy within the recommended time frame; and a lower percentage of Asian Boston public high school students report being physically active compared with White students; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Compared with White residents, Latino residents experience higher rates of preterm births, low birthweight births, infant mortality, tuberculosis, HIV infection, influenza, asthma emergency department (ED) visits, obesity, hypertension, diabetes hospitalizations, and assault-related ED discharges; *and*
- WHEREAS:** A recent report by the Union of Concerned Scientists finds that Asian American, African American, and Latino residents in Boston suffer from high exposure to *PM*_{2.5}, a fine particulate matter that significantly increases an individual's risk of lung cancer, heart disease, asthma and other respiratory conditions; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In Massachusetts, Asian Americans residents are exposed to 36 percent more vehicle pollution than White residents, African Americans are exposed to 34 percent more vehicle pollution, and Latino residents to 26 percent more pollution; *and*
- WHEREAS:** High exposure to pollution compounds underlines the public health disparities impacting communities of color; *and*

WHEREAS: Communities of color are also particularly impacted by Boston's housing crisis, and long time residents who are facing displacement and eviction experience tremendous stress that can affect their health, and if they are forced to move from their neighborhood, they also lose resources and social capital that they often rely on; *and*

WHEREAS: Many residents of color, particularly Latinos and Asian Americans, speak a language other than English, and a shortage of interpretation services and bilingual providers in the healthcare system creates a barrier to healthcare access; *and*

WHEREAS: Residents of color should have equal access to resources and healthcare that address their health and wellbeing, and the City of Boston should work to address these public health disparities; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss public health disparities in communities of color, as well as resources and measures that can improve public health outcomes in the City. Representatives from the Boston Public Health Commission, community organizations, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to testify.