



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE
EPIDEMIC OF VIOLENCE AGAINST TRANSGENDER AND
GENDER NON-CONFORMING PEOPLE**

- WHEREAS,** The month of June is recognized and celebrated as LGBTQIA Pride Month, observed annually following the Stonewall Uprising of 1969, led by Black transgender women such as Marsha P. Johnson (1945-1992) whose activism sparked a new phase of the LGBTQIA movement; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** International Transgender Day of Remembrance has been observed annually on November 20 since 1999, and was initially started to memorialize Rita Hester, a Black transgender woman murdered in Allston in 1998; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Since 2019, The American Medical Association (AMA) has classified the murders of transgender people as an epidemic; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** In 2019, the Human Rights Campaign tracked at least 26 deaths of transgender or gender non-conforming people in the U.S. due to fatal violence, the majority of whom were Black transgender women; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Transgender women face 4.3 times the risk of becoming homicide victims than the general population of all women; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Thus far in 2020 at least 12 transgender or gender non-conforming people in the U.S. have been killed including Dustin Parker, Neulisa Luciano Ruiz, Yampi Méndez Arocho, Monika Diamond, Lexi, Johanna Metzger, Serena Angelique Velázquez Ramos, Layla Pelaez Sánchez, Penélope Díaz Ramírez, Nina Pop, Helle Jae O'Regan, and Tony McDade; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Transgender and gender non-conforming individuals are often subject to hate and bias incidents and their gender identity may put them at risk in other ways, such as being forced into unemployment, poverty, homelessness, and/or survival sex work; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Fatal violence against transgender and gender non-conforming individuals disproportionately affects transgender women of color, particularly Black transgender women; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** At least 3 in 4 of the known victims of anti-transgender violence are misgendered in initial police or media reports surrounding their deaths, delaying awareness of deadly incidents; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** On the November 2018 ballot question, 75-percent of voters in the City of Boston voted to uphold the state law providing protections for transgender people from discrimination on the basis of gender identity in places of public accommodation.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the ongoing crisis of violence against transgender and gender non-conforming people. Relevant administration officials, community advocates, community health providers, and interested members of the public shall be invited to attend remotely in the interest of public health amid the COVID-19 pandemic.