

Offered by City Councilor Ricardo Arroyo , O'Malley, Campbell, Edwards, Essaibi-George, Flynn, Breadon, Flaherty, Mejia, Bok, Wu and Janey

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**



**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS COVID-19
RATES BY NEIGHBORHOODS AND STRATEGIES TO
REDUCE TRANSMISSION**

WHEREAS: The City of Boston is facing an unprecedented public health emergency due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic; *and*

WHEREAS: Epidemiologists at the Harvard Global Health Institute have stated that low risk of community transmission of COVID-19 is more likely when the percent of positive cases remains below 3%, and that it is important to conduct contact tracing and targeted testing in areas that have higher localized rates; *and*

WHEREAS: As of November 15, 2020, the percent of positive COVID-19 cases over one week for the City of Boston as a whole was 5.6%, with both East Boston and Dorchester exceeding rates of 7%; *and*

WHEREAS: Since the Boston Public Health Commission began tracking cases by neighborhood, the highest community positivity rates have been located in East Boston, Dorchester, Mattapan, Roxbury, and Hyde Park, which have the highest portions of the City's Black, Latinx, and immigrant residents; *and*

WHEREAS: COVID-19 continues to disproportionately impact Black and Latinx populations with Black residents accounting for 34% of COVID deaths and Latino residents accounting for 33% of known COVID cases in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston needs to focus on reducing transmission rates in our most vulnerable neighborhoods, increase testing accessibility, and implement targeted and holistic interventions to address the rising number of COVID cases; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the COVID-19 positive rates by neighborhood and the strategies that can be implemented in order to reduce transmission in our communities; *and* that representatives from Health and Human Services, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Public Development Agency, public health experts, and other interested parties be invited.

Filed on: December 2, 2020