



**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, MURPHY, FLAHERTY,
BOK, BAKER, BREADON, FERNANDES ANDERSON, LARA,
LOUIJEUNE, MAJIA, COLETTA AND ARROYO**

CITY OF BOSTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF ALLOCATING ARPA FUNDS FOR THE EXPANSION OF SOUTH BOSTON COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER

- WHEREAS:** The South Boston Community Health Center (SBCHC) is the only provider of primary and preventive care in South Boston, and they also provide a whole range of medical care and services that includes Adult Medicine, Pediatrics, Family Medicine, Women's Health, Behavioral Health, Substance Abuse Services, Interpreter Service, Food Pantry and much more; and,
- WHEREAS:** SBCHC serves a diverse group of patients, with nearly 60% of their patients relying on some form of public assistance, 45% living at 200% below the federal poverty level; the patient base includes many of those who live in South Boston's three major public housing developments, immigrant neighbors, seniors, low income residents, and working families; and,
- WHEREAS:** During the pandemic, SBCHC staff worked tirelessly to provide Covid-19 vaccination and testing to well over 35,000 people, and realized that there is a great need for expansion of their current building in order to provide better spacing for patients and staff; and,
- WHEREAS:** There is also a vastly increased demand for behavioral health services, and the expansion would add much needed clinical spaces to accommodate the demand for mental health services and treatment for substance abuse disorders; and,
- WHEREAS:** The American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) provides almost \$650 million in direct funding for our city, with \$350 million yet to be firmly allocated for investments; and,
- WHEREAS:** There is a proposed \$20 million for our continued COVID-19 response, and another \$18 million to augment behavioral health services, and the expansion of SBCHC would serve to fulfill both of these proposed uses of ARPA funding; and,
- WHEREAS:** We should therefore explore the possibility of allocating ARPA funding for the expansion of SBCHC, so that this important community institution will be able to provide the critical care that the South Boston neighborhood and beyond rely on; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss using ARPA funds for the expansion of the South Boston Community Health Center . Representatives from the Administration, Boston Public Health Commission, the Budget Office, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.