

**An Ordinance Amending City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter XV, Section 15-11, Black Male Advancement for Equity and Welfare**

*Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:*

**SECTION 1.** City of Boston Code, Ordinances, is hereby amended in **Chapter XV** by replacing the existing Section 15-11 with the following new section and subsections:

**15-11 COMMISSION ON BLACK MEN AND BOYS.**

**15-11.1 Established.**

There shall be within the Mayor's office a division to be known as the Commission on Black Men and Boys (hereinafter the "Commission").

**15-11.2 Organization.**

- a. *Membership.* The membership shall consist of twenty-one (21) members, all of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor. One two-year term member shall be a youth member. One three-year member shall be a youth member.
- b. *Terms.* The members shall be appointed to serve for the following initial terms:
  1. Seven (7) members shall serve for two (2)-year terms;
  2. Seven (7) members shall serve for three (3)-year terms;
  3. Seven (7) members shall serve for four (4)-year terms;

Thereafter, as the term of a member expires, the member's successor shall be appointed by the Mayor for a term of three (3) years from such expiration.

Any members absent for more than one-third of the Commission meetings within a twelve (12)-month period may be removed from the Commission by the Mayor at the Mayor's discretion by filing a written statement of reasons for removal with the City Clerk, provided, however, that there were at least three meetings of the Commission during the twelve (12)-month period.

Vacancies, other than by reason of expiration of terms, shall be filled for the balance of unexpired terms, appointed in the same manner and by the same body.

- c. *Chair.* The Mayor shall appoint a member as the chairperson of the Commission
- d. *Executive Director.* The Mayor shall appoint an Executive Director of the Commission on Black Men and Boys that shall be an existing, paid employee of the City of Boston, to oversee and run the daily operations and administration of the Commission. The Executive Director shall serve as the advisor of the Commission and shall have the powers of a department head with respect to the execution of contracts and matters of personnel management within said office. The Executive Director shall serve as a member of the Commission, ex officio and without additional compensation, and shall have an official vote on matters before the Commission
- e. *Compensation.* The members of the Commission will receive stipends as determined by the Mayor commensurate with their duties and/or expenses.

**15-11.3 Duties.**

The Duties of the Commission shall include but not be limited to:

- a. Advising the Mayor on issues pertaining to Black men and boys
- b. Assisting the Office of the Mayor in determining budget and policy priorities;
- c. Monitoring and advising city agencies and departments on issues pertaining to Black men and boys;
- d. Designing projects and programs that promote equity for Black men and boys which are not currently being implemented by existing city agencies;
- e. Performing outreach, communication, and liaison to Black men and boys related to community groups and organizations;
- f. Working with the Department of Intergovernmental Relations concerning state and federal legislation and programs that are of concern to Black men and boys;
- g. Working with all city departments, agencies, commissions and offices to assure that Black men and boys are represented at all levels of city government;
- h. Coordinating dialogues and actions in collaboration with other city agencies on behalf of city government to issues of concern to all Black men and boys and related organizations, including but not limited to:
  - i. equity and racial justice,
  - ii. economic opportunity and workers empowerment,
  - iii. education and youth advancement,
  - iv. affordable housing and pathways to homeownership,
  - v. public health and wellness, including concerns related to LGBTQIA+, gender identity, sexual orientation, national origin, mental, physical, and sexual health
  - vi. fatherhood and families,
  - vii. community safety and returning citizens,
  - viii. financial empowerment, and more.
- i. During the first year of its existence, the Commission shall hold monthly meetings and give updates to the City Council on a quarterly basis and shall hold regular meetings thereafter;
- j. Producing a yearly report pertaining to the work of the Commission and the progress of the City and the community to advance the status of Black men and boys. The Commission shall submit the report to the City Clerk of the City of Boston who shall forward the report to the Mayor of the City of Boston and shall file the report and include the docket on the agenda of the next-occurring meeting of the Boston City Council.

#### **15-11.4 Office of Black Male Advancement.**

- a. *Established.* There shall be established in the City of Boston an office known as the Office of Black Male Advancement (hereafter the “Office”) which shall be under the charge of the Executive Director.
- b. *Purpose.* This Ordinance is to establish an Office of Black Male Advancement in the City of Boston to improve outcomes and reduce systemic barriers to advancement for Black men and boys living in Boston. The services of all City departments, agencies, commissions and offices shall be made reasonably available to the Office for effectuating the purpose of this section.
- c. *Powers and Duties.* The Office, under the charge of the Executive Director, shall have the powers and duties necessary to carry out the purpose of this section and the mission of the Commission.
- d. *Reporting.* The Office shall file with the City Clerk and post on the Office’s website data, outcome metrics, and an annual report on the work of the Office and the progress of the City and the community to advance the purpose of this section.