

0399

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON COMMUNITIES IMPACTED BY VIOLENCE AND TRAUMA

WHEREAS: Gun violence is a public health crisis and epidemic that is experienced at various levels throughout the City of Boston. A majority of shootings happen in a cluster of just three neighborhoods: Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan; *and*,

WHEREAS: The issue extends beyond any one community due to instances of domestic violence, mass shootings, firearm incidents, and suicide; *and*,

WHEREAS: Exposure to violence is linked to a variety of behavioral and mental health challenges like anger and dissociation, anxiety and depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and witnessing or experiencing violence can predispose children and young people to engage in violent behavior, continuing the cycle of violence; *and*,

WHEREAS: Addressing violence and trauma is a challenge for the whole city, but it must be done in partnership with and by listening to impacted communities; *and*

WHEREAS: On December 10, 2018, Boston City Council's Committee on Healthy Women, Families & Communities held a listening-only hearing for community members to share their individual experiences of being impacted by systemic violence and trauma, challenges navigating City resources, and proposed solutions to end the gun violence epidemic in Boston; *and*,

WHEREAS: The listening session called for follow-up discussions to identify prescriptive recommendations, including how to improve and make available trauma response and mental health care; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a follow-up hearing to discuss the challenges faced by communities impacted by violence and trauma and that such communities be invited to testify and that representatives from the Mayor's Office, Boston Police Department, Boston Public Health Commission, Suffolk County District Attorney's office, Suffolk County Sheriff's office, Boston Medical Center, faith-based organizations and response teams, and other interested parties be invited.

Filed: February 27, 2019