

Offered by Councilor Liz Breadon

Arroyo, Baker, Bok, Campbell, Edwards, Essaibi-George, Flaherty, Flynn, Mejia, O'Malley, Wu and Janey



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE SOCIAL IMPACTS OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE MEASURES RELATIVE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, SOCIAL ISOLATION, AND MENTAL HEALTH

**WHEREAS,** The contagious outbreak of COVID-19 has triggered a “social distancing” response measure to limit the spread of the virus among Boston residents; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** The Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has declared a state of emergency and the Mayor of City of Boston has declared a public health emergency; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** Residents of the City of Boston have been advised by local and public health officials to remain at home and avoid all nonessential travel in an effort to “flatten the curve” of the virus’ spread; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** Home is not always a safe space for survivors of domestic and intimate partner violence; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** Social isolation as a means of preventing the spread of the virus may also trigger feelings of disconnectedness, loss of community, and loneliness among those most vulnerable to mental health conditions including depression; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** Domestic violence shelters and service agencies across the country are bracing for a surge of services being sought; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** The City’s COVID-19 mitigation measures also trigger a public health impact on the lives of Boston residents relative to domestic violence, social isolation, and mental health; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic response measures and their impact on domestic violence, social isolation, and mental health. Administration Officials, neighborhood organizations, residents of the city, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend remotely in the interest of public health amid this COVID-19 pandemic.

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