



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS WAYS TO PROMOTE A  
COMPLETE AND ACCURATE COUNT FOR 2020 CENSUS  
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

**WHEREAS:** The 2020 Census will begin on April 1st of this year, and will be an important undertaking to provide an accurate population count of the residents living in the United States; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The 2020 Census will be critical in determining the number of congressional seats in our state, the boundaries of local, state, and federal legislative districts, and how federal funds are distributed in our community; it also provides important data that can help lawmakers craft policies that accurately reflect the needs of constituents; *and*

**WHEREAS:** It is therefore important for Boston to have a complete and accurate count of its residents in the 2020 Census, yet challenges remain as the city is home to many traditionally hard to count and undercounted populations, such as immigrants, residents who speak a language other than English, students, and renters; in fact, Boston is ranked as the ninth hardest to count cities in the list of 100 largest cities; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The Trump Administration attempted to put a citizenship question on the census, and while this question will ultimately not be on the census, this attempt could further discourage immigrant and noncitizen residents from answering questions on the census; *and*

**WHEREAS:** It is imperative that we focus on community outreach across the city with trusted community partners to ensure full participation in the 2020 Census; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The Mayor's Office established a Complete Count Committee that includes leaders from different sectors, and awarded grants to 13 local nonprofits to conduct outreach in hard to count communities; the City also has a Census Liaison working in coordination to ensure an accurate count; *and*

**WHEREAS:** It is important that the City continues to work with local organizations and residents to identify measures needed to have full participation in the 2020 Census, including ways that can ensure language access for non-English speakers, recruit trusted community members as census enumerators, and raise awareness about the importance of the census; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss ways to promote a complete and accurate count of the 2020 Census in the City of Boston. Representatives from Intergovernmental Relations, local organizations, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to testify.