

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Ricardo Arroyo



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

An Ordinance Creating a Commission on Latino Men and Boys

WHEREAS, Boston is a city where a majority of the population is people of color, with roughly 19.8% of the population identifying as “Hispanic only” according to BPDA statistics; *and*

WHEREAS, A majority of BPS students identify as people of color, with 42.4% of the SY2020 student population identifying as “Hispanic” according to BPS data; *and*

WHEREAS, Latino men and boys continue to face discrimination and the disproportionate impacts of violence: A disproportionate number of homicide victims in 2020 were Latino men; *and*

WHEREAS, Latino boys are less likely to be proficient in reading, math, and science than their white peers, according to a study published by the National Research Center on Hispanic Children and Families, largely due to an education system that was not designed to cater to their lived experiences; *and*

WHEREAS, We have a responsibility and an obligation to continue the work of uplifting the lived experiences of Latino men and boys to ensure that we are designing all spaces from a framework of equity and justice; *and*

WHEREAS, Latino men and boys of the City require an outlet for expressing their opinions and ideas and a place to rely on for information, advocacy, and action; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the City of Boston Code, Chapter XV shall be amended by adding the following new section:

SECTION 15-12. Commission on Latino Men and Boys

Section 15-12.1: *Established.* There shall be within the Mayor’s office a division to be known as the Commission on Latino Men and Boys (hereinafter the “Commission”)

Section 15-12.2: *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:
 - a. Seven (7) members shall serve for two-year terms;
 - b. Seven (7) members shall serve for three-year terms;
 - c. Seven (7) members shall serve for four-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 years from such expiration.

Any members absent for more than one-third of the Commission meetings within a twelve-month period may be removed from the Commission by the Mayor at the Mayor's discretion by notice to the City Council, provided, however, that there were at least three meetings of the Commission during the twelve-month period.

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

- C. *Chair.* The Mayor shall appoint a member as the chairperson of the Commission who may be their Advisor and shall have the powers of a department head with respect to the execution of contracts and matters of personnel management within said office.
- D. *Compensation.* The members shall serve without compensation.

Section 15-12.3: Duties. The Duties of the Commission shall include but not be limited to:

- A. Advising the Mayor on issues pertaining to Latino 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 Latino men and boys;
- D. Designing projects and programs that promote equity for Latino men and boys which are not currently being implemented by existing city agencies;
- E. Performing outreach, communication, and liaison to Latino 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 Latino men and boys;
- G. Working with the Office of Civil Rights to assure that Latino men and boys are represented at all levels of city government;
- H. Coordinating dialogues and action on behalf of city government to issues of concern to Latino men and boys and related organizations, including but not limited to: concerns related to national origin, sexual orientation and gender identity, mental, physical, and sexual health, violence prevention, employment, and more;
- I. During the first year of its existence, the Commission shall hold monthly meetings, give updates to the City Council on a quarterly basis, and produce an annual report;
- J. After the first year of its existence, the Commission shall produce an annual report.

Section 15-12.4: The Commission may promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the stated objectives.

Section 15-12.5: Effective Date.

This ordinance shall be effective upon passage.

Filed in City Council: 6/16/2021