

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia, Brian Worrell, Ricardo Arroyo, Breadon, Coletta, Flaherty, Fernandes Anderson, Lara, Murphy, Louijeune, Durkan and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

An Ordinance Amending City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter XII, Section 12-20, Latino and Caribbean Affairs for Public Health and Welfare

WHEREAS, Latino and Caribbean communities are an integral part of the City of Boston, collectively comprising nearly 30 percent of Boston's population. Moreover, Latinos account for 41.8% of enrollment in Boston Public Schools. BPS does not collect this information for Caribbeans; *and*

WHEREAS, While Latinos and Caribbeans contribute greatly to the city's economic, cultural, and social fabric, many continue to face barriers to economic opportunities, health outcomes and quality of life issues; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is in need of a dedicated office equipped to attend to the growing needs of the Latino and Caribbean population of Boston to ensure that services and policies address the needs and concerns of the Latino and Caribbean communities; *and*

WHEREAS, Latinos and Caribbeans cannot be solely represented by the Mayor's Office of Immigrant Advancement because the majority are US citizens. Moreover, 40% of the Latino population are Puerto Ricans, which are US-citizens; *and*

WHEREAS, Other cities, such as Washington, D.C., have established similar offices to support their Latino and Caribbean communities, and have seen positive outcomes in terms of increased civic engagement, improved access to city services, and strengthened community partnerships

WHEREAS, The City Council has a responsibility to ensure Latino and Caribbean constituent needs are being heard and responded to appropriately through community engagement efforts, services, and policies, as well as a way to monitor the progress and provide the oversight and accountability on the impact of the City's policies, programs, procedures and protocols; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the City of Boston Code, Chapter XII, is amended by adding at the end thereof the following new section and subsections:

SECTION 1.

12-20.1 Purpose.

The City recognizes that a large percentage of its inhabitants are of Latino or Caribbean descent and their unique needs require linguistically and culturally appropriate outreach.

12-20.2 Establishment of the Office of Latino and Caribbean Affairs.

There shall be established in the City of Boston the Office of Latino and Caribbean Affairs, hereafter referred to as the Office, which shall be under the charge of an Officer known as the Director of Latino and Caribbean Affairs (hereafter called the Director), who shall be appointed by the Mayor.

Definition of Latino and Caribbean any person whose heritage, descent, or origin is from a country in the Americas excluding Canada and the United States.

12-20.3 Director Responsibilities.

The Director, or designee, of the Office shall have the power and the duty to:

1. Advise and assist the Mayor in developing and implementing policies designed to assist Latino and Caribbean residents in the City;
 2. Enhance the accessibility of City programs, benefits, and services to Latino and Caribbean residents by establishing outreach programs in conjunction with other City agencies and departments to inform and educate Latino and Caribbean residents of relevant City programs, benefits, and services;
 3. Perform policy analysis and program evaluation;
 4. Make recommendations concerning Latino and Caribbean affairs;
 5. Monitoring and advising city agencies and departments on issues pertaining to Latino and Caribbean residents; and
 6. Perform such other duties and functions as may be appropriate to pursue the policies set forth in this section.
1. Conduct research and advise the Mayor on challenges faced by Latino and Caribbean residents, including, but not limited to, obstacles to accessing City programs, benefits, and services, and on socioeconomic trends related to such persons;
 2. Consult with relevant City departments on implementation of sections of the charter and the administrative code that are relevant to Latinos and Caribbean residents;
 3. Solicit community and stakeholder input regarding the activities of the Office, including but not limited to the Office's consultations with relevant agencies on implementation of sections of the code and the administrative charter that are relevant to Latino and Caribbean residents; and

4. Identify model policies, practices, and programs within City departments or agencies, as well as in other municipalities across the US, that effectively support Latino and Caribbean residents that can be adopted or adapted across the City.

12-20.4 Reporting Requirements.

- a. The Office shall provide to the City Council and post on the Office's website a report every year regarding the City's Latino and Caribbean population and the activities of the Office during the previous calendar year, including, but not limited to the following information, where such information is available:
 1. The size and composition of such population, including, but not limited to demographic information, socio-economic markers, and estimates of the immigration status and English language proficiency held by members of such population, if any;
 2. Information regarding the needs of such population including, but not limited to, social services, housing, public benefits, education, food insecurity, health, and workforce development needs;
 3. Information regarding barriers faced by such population in accessing such services, and recommendations on how the City could address such barriers;
 4. Resources and other supports provided to City departments and agencies to enable or facilitate the implementation of policies, practices, or programs to tend to the needs and concerns of Latino and Caribbean residents;
 5. Information and metrics relating to each programmatic initiative of the Office, including initiatives that are conducted in partnership with other offices, agencies, or non-profit & corporate partners, including but not limited to:
 - a. Total program capacity, disaggregated by service type;
 - b. Number of intakes or program eligibility screenings conducted;
 - c. Number of individuals served, disaggregated by service type; and
 - d. Number of matters handled, and aggregate data on the outcomes achieved, disaggregated by service type.

SECTION 2.

Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are severable, and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity will not affect the remaining provisions, which will remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3.

Effective Date. This ordinance shall be effective within six months of passage.

Filed in City Council: August 9, 2023