

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER OF COUNCILOR TITO JACKSON

- WHEREAS:** Nearly 24.4% of Boston's total population in 2010 – 150,437 of 617,594 people – are black; and
- WHEREAS:** Between 2006 and 2008, 49.8% of the black population was male and almost one third (31.1%) of all Blacks living in Boston were 17 years or under; and
- WHEREAS:** the greatest concentration of black residents of Boston currently reside in Roxbury at 76% of neighborhood residents, followed by 68% of those living in Mattapan, and 56% of those living in Dorchester; and
- WHEREAS:** Despite the large presence of the black community within Boston, there remains no formal commission to support the economic advancement, gains in education, business ownership, or political influence of black men and boys; and
- WHEREAS:** Boston has established a Commission on the Status of Women charged with reviewing the status of women in our City and pushing for beneficial legislative changes regarding policy that would improve access to opportunities and equality; and
- WHEREAS:** The issues and concerns of all black men and boys in particular, throughout each of Boston's neighborhoods, relates to concerns about economic justice, health and safety, youth violence, education, and several other areas and require a higher level of focus by city government; and
- WHEREAS:** The black 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, Therefore Be It
- ORDERED:** That the following shall take effect immediately:

SECTION 1. There shall be within the Mayor's office a division to be known as the Commission on Black Men and Boys which shall be under the charge of an officer, known as the Advisor to the Mayor on Black Men and Boys (hereinafter

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the “Advisor”), appointed by the Mayor and who shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and who shall have the powers of a department head with respect to execution of contracts and matters of personnel management within said office.

SECTION 2. The Commission shall consist of fourteen members all of whom shall be appointed by the Mayor (and shall be residents of the city). They shall serve for three year terms. Any person appointed to fill a vacancy shall only serve for the unexpired term; and any such appointee shall serve until said appointee’s successor is appointed and qualified. The Advisor as herein referred to shall be a member of the Commission ex officio. The Mayor shall appoint a chairperson of the Commission who may, but need not, be his Advisor. Members of the Commission shall serve without compensation.

SECTION 3. The duties of the Commission shall include but are not limited to:

- a. advising the Mayor’s Advisor on issues pertaining to black men and boys;
- b. assisting the Advisor in working with the Office of the Mayor in determining budget and policy priorities;
- c. monitoring and advising other city agencies on issues pertaining to black men and boys;
- d. designing special projects that affect black men and boys which are not currently being implemented by existing city agencies;
- e. performing services in connection with outreach, communication, and liaison to neighborhood black men and boys and related community groups and organizations;
- f. working with the Department on Intergovernmental Relations concerning state and federal legislation and programs that are of concern to black men and boys;
- g. working with the Office of Affirmative Action to insure that black men and boys are represented at all levels of city government;
- h. serving on an interagency task force developed by an affirmative action office;
- i. coordinating the response of city government to issues of concern to black men and boys and related organizations.

SECTION 4. The Commission may promulgate such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the stated objectives of this brief.

Filed in City Council: February 26, 2014