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COMMITTEE HEARING NOTICE

November 26, 2013

The Boston City Council's Committee on Women and Healthy Communities will hold a public hearing on Tuesday December 10, 2013 at 1:00 p.m. in the Christopher A. Iannella Chamber.

The subject of the hearing is:

Docket #1610-Order for a hearing to discuss Poverty and Unemployment in the City of Boston.

This matter was sponsored by Councilors Charles C. Yancey and Tito Jackson and referred to the committee on October 9, 2013.

Members of the public are cordially invited to attend and testify. If you have not testified at a Council hearing before, please arrive (5) minutes before the call of the hearing to sign up and become familiar with the hearing format, testimony locations, and sound system. Please bring fifteen (15) copies of any written documentation you wish to present at the hearing. If you know of others who may be interested in this hearing, kindly notify them.

Written comments may be made part of the record and available to all Councilors by sending them by email, fax, or mail to arrive before the hearing, please use the information below.

For the Committee:

Ayanna Pressley, Chair
Committee on Women and Healthy Communities

Liaison: Cora Montrond
Address: Docket #1610 City Council, City Hall 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201
Telephone: (617) 635-4562 Fax: (617) 635-3734
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Broadcast: Comcast 8/RCN 82 date/time: Live
Webcast: www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil/live.asp

1610

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

BOSTON CITY COUNCILLORS CHARLES C. YANCEY & TITO JACKSON

ORDER FOR HEARING REGARDING POVERTY AND UNEMPLOYMENT IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** Poverty and unemployment are often viewed as being a cause of crime, educational underachievement, and poor health; and
- WHEREAS:** The federal government classifies an individual with an annual income of \$10,830 or less as impoverished, or a family of three with an annual income of \$18,310 or less as impoverished; and
- WHEREAS:** Based on federal standards, 19.6 percent of Boston individuals are living in poverty, and 15.4 percent of Boston families are living in poverty; and
- WHEREAS:** Half of Boston's white households in 2009 had incomes of \$63,980 or less; half of Boston's Asian households had incomes of \$36,670 or less; half of Boston's black households had incomes of \$33,420 or less; and half of Boston's Latino households had incomes of \$28,793 or less; and
- WHEREAS:** Unemployment and underemployment are major causes of poverty; and
- WHEREAS:** The American Community Survey of the US Census Department in 2008 cited unemployment in Boston among all races for those 16 and older at 7.5 percent; among whites at 4.9 percent (14,824); among Asians at 8 percent (3,424); among Latinos at 10 percent (7,169); and among blacks at 13.2 percent (14,363); and
- WHEREAS:** Boston is rated as one of the ten most expensive cities in the United States: The median price of a condominium in downtown Boston or in surrounding communities is \$537,000 (7.4% higher than in the first quarter of 2012); one bedroom micro apartments (350 to 450 square feet) are being rented to young professionals for two thousand (\$2000) a month in the Seaport District; and one bedroom apartments are renting for a minimum of one thousand (\$1000) a month in Boston's poorest neighborhoods; and
- WHEREAS:** The continuous rise of real estate prices in Boston is drastically diminishing economic diversity among Boston's households; and
- WHEREAS:** Mayor Menino's proposal for building 30,000 new units in Boston by 2020 includes only 5,000 units viewed as affordable by those Boston households with an income of the city's 2013 median income of \$75,000 or less a year; and
- WHEREAS:** The city, state, and business communities should have policies designed to promote the health and welfare of the people of the cities and states in which they are located; Therefore Be It
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council be requested to invite representatives of the Mayor's office, ABCD, the Economic Development Industrial Corporations, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, the state Office of Workforce Development, and the Associated Industries of Massachusetts to discuss development of strategies to bring full employment to Boston; and Be further
- ORDERED:** That representatives of the Boston Police Department, Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Health Commission, as well as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Executive Offices of Public Safety, Education, and Health and Human Services be invited to discuss the relationship of poverty and unemployment to crime, educational underachievement, and poor health in the City of Boston; and Be it further
- ORDERED:** That representatives of the Boston Redevelopment Authority and the Department of Neighborhood Development be invited to discuss development of strategies to maintain stable economic diversity among households of Boston despite rising cost of housing; and Be it further
- ORDERED:** That representatives of Boston's major employers, such as Massachusetts General Hospital, Stop & Shop, the University of Massachusetts, Steward Health Care System, Harvard University, and Brigham and Women's Hospital be invited to discuss the extent to which their hiring and promotion policies address the issues of poverty and unemployment in the City of Boston.

IN CITY COUNCIL
OCTOBER 7, 2013