



## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TEN

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING SOCIAL INEQUITIES AND HEALTH

- WHEREAS,** Inequities in employment opportunities, housing, access to healthy food, recreational space, quality schools, etc. are often concentrated by race, economic status, and neighborhood; and,
- WHEREAS,** There is growing evidence that these inequities have cumulative effects on health over time; and,
- WHEREAS,** Boston Medical Center, in partnership with other hospitals around the country, recently released a study detailing how these inequities combine to decrease the chances for healthy growth and development, as well as diminish the overall health and wellness, of the impacted infants and toddlers; and,
- WHEREAS,** The current economic conditions and rising costs of health care, food and energy have made it impossible for a growing number of families with young children in Boston to meet the high costs necessary to sustain a healthy standard of living; and,
- WHEREAS,** Policies and programs outside the health care system that target access to housing, healthy food, education, etc. can have a greater impact on the occurrence of illness, while health care focused interventions reduce the severity of already existing disparities; and,
- WHEREAS,** Deliberate public action can undue practices that create inequities and promote policies that develop protective health resources in all communities. **THEREFORE BE IT,**
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the impact of cumulative hardships on health and identify strategies to reduce those hardships; and that representatives from the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Medical Center, and other interested parties be invited to testify.

**Filed on: 4/13/2010**