

BLACK BOSTON COVID-19 COALITION

The Black Boston COVID-19 Coalition (“BBCC”) is a group of stakeholders and thought leaders from Boston who have formed a united effort to demand that decisions, policies, and actions taken and resources committed to our community of residents and businesses are effective. We define effective as successfully stemming the contraction and transmission of COVID-19, and leaving Black residents and Black businesses in a better place post-pandemic than we were before and during. We believe that the only way to accomplish our mission is to interject ourselves into every aspect of the response and recovery process. We are prepared to do whatever is necessary.

The BBCC expects the following:

To develop and oversee the execution and implementation of a plan for state, city elected and appointed officials with COVID-19 policies and protocols designed to protect the Black community which include but are not limited to:

- Meetings with senior, public housing and multi-family property owners/managers to create and implement measures necessary to prevent, test, report and contain COVID-19;
- A demand that state or local government immediately move to dispatch mobile testing vans to those locations identified as hotspots, sweep the area with testing, masks, gloves, sanitizers;
- Development of a plan/schedule for regular cleaning of public spaces and buildings and require private multi-family owners to commence a regular cleaning schedule;
- Daily reports to the community of new cases and deaths by neighborhood and where existing hotspots are by race and country of origin. Such information will be used to formulate the plan to prevent, test, and contain COVID-19;
- Demand a plan for ensuring all Black immigrants, including undocumented and mixed-status families, have equitable access to information, COVID-19 health services and relief provisions and protections. Ensure the protection and safety of Black immigrants by releasing immigrant detainees and denouncing coordination with local law enforcement and ICE at hospitals and other safe zones;
- Move immediately to inventory, register and set standards and protocols for non commercial distribution of food to residents in the City of Boston.

The BBCC will also move immediately to:

- Identify public/private resources necessary to provide masks, gloves, sanitizers to households in impacted areas;
- Coordinate with Families for Justice and Healing to develop a plan to ensure currently incarcerated and returning citizens are treated with health and safety as the highest priority involving state and local officials, Suffolk County Sheriff, and the Suffolk County DA and the Mass. AG
- Demand that the MBTA require and distribute masks for all passengers and drivers utilizing public transportation in Boston during the pandemic. Masks should be made available in every vehicle;
- Demand an accounting of all monies received/appropriated to date from City, private, state and federal sources for COVID-19, a breakdown of what has been expended and how much has been spent with MBEs/WBEs;
- Demand a list of contracting/employment opportunities that will be available during and after the pandemic has subsided, including goals for MBE/WBE utilization;
- Demand a plan to effectively address the disproportionate hardship suffered by Black and Latino businesses to avoid massive economic losses to the community of color;
- Demand the establishment of a separate fund to support Black and Latino businesses.
- Work with stakeholders to ensure that Black and Latinx interests are included in the FY'21 People's Budget to address the devastating economic consequences of COVID-19

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