

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MICHELLE WU AND LIZ BREADON

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**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDINANCE TO ENSURE GENDER
INCLUSIVITY ON CITY FORMS**

WHEREAS, Language is important and can promote inclusion and representation, or reveal and reinforce harmful stereotypes and exclusion; *and*

WHEREAS, The LGBTQIA+ community continues to face marginalization, discrimination, and violence, especially toward trans and gender non-conforming community members; *and*

WHEREAS, Social science research has established that the use of gender-inclusive pronouns and language reduces bias and promotes healthy, positive societal views; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has an obligation to ensure that the language used on city forms does not discriminate by sex, social gender or gender identity, and does not perpetuate gender stereotypes, but rather reflects the diversity of all our residents and families; *NOW THEREFORE*

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:

Section 1. The City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter VI, shall be amended by adding at the end thereof, the following new section and subsections:

6-11 Gender Inclusion

All existing and future City-issued forms, documents, and certificates that provide for a gender or sex designation, shall include a non-binary gender identification option, to be marked as "X", that may be selected as gender designation. All forms shall reflect gender inclusion and inclusion of all family structures.

The Office of Intergovernmental Relations shall prepare a report for the Council, listing all City forms or documents that require individuals to designate their gender or sex, whether the form has a gender neutral designation option, and whether, if applicable, binary gender designation is required by City, State, or Federal law. This report shall be filed in Council within 60 days of the passage of this ordinance.

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Filed on: November 13, 2020