



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

MASSACHUSETTS BLACK AND LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS

ROOM 460, STATE HOUSE

BOSTON, MA 02133-1054

TELEPHONE: (617) 722-2688

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Contact: Siby Malaba

617-722-2688

**MASSACHUSETTS BLACK AND LATINO LEGISLATIVE CAUCUS
CLOSES THE 189TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION WITH A STATEWIDE
COMMUNITIES OF COLOR AGENDA LISTENING TOUR**

BOSTON – The Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus (MBLLC) closed out the 189th Legislative Session by convening a listening tour throughout the state as part of the development of a 2017-2018 Communities of Color Agenda. This agenda aims to build consensus between the MBLLC and residents around key pieces of legislation directly impacting communities of color.

Throughout December 2016, the listening tour made stops at the Rebecca Johnson Elementary School in Springfield, Hibernian Hall in Boston, and the Lawrence Public Library in Lawrence to hear from activists, advocates, and residents on issues most affecting Black, Latino, and Asian communities. The MBLLC received testimony from close to 100 speakers and several others submitted in writing.

“It is important for us to start the new legislative session by meeting constituents where they are. Many familiar issues were highlighted and new issues that need our attention”, said MBLLC Chair, Rep. Russell Holmes (D – Boston).

Joining the MBLLC in receiving testimony were several municipal leaders, including Mayor Dan Rivera of Lawrence, City Councilors Shaynah Barnes (Brockton At-Large); Adam Gomez (Springfield Ward 1); Tito Jackson (Boston District 7); Modesto Maldonado (Lawrence At-Large); Ayanna Pressley (Boston At-Large); Dana Rebiero (New Bedford Ward 4); Jeovanny Rodriguez (Lawrence District D); and Michelle Wu (Boston Council President); as well as Senator Jamie Eldridge (D – Acton).

“In the coming months, the MBLLC will be reviewing submitted testimony and identifying major themes that we heard. Based on that information and feedback provided from community leaders, we will turn it into action by building a Communities of Color Agenda”, said Holmes.

For more information on the Massachusetts Black and Latino Legislative Caucus, please visit: www.mablacklatinocaucus.com/.

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