



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS WORKFORCE PIPELINE OPPORTUNITIES BETWEEN THE WENTWORTH INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY AND THE CITY OF BOSTON'S INSPECTIONAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, The City of Boston's Inspectional Services Department plays a critical role in the city's development ecosystem, with plans examiners responsible for reviewing construction documents for compliance with the State Building Code, zoning requirements, and other applicable regulations before permits are issued; *and*

WHEREAS, The speed and capacity of the plans examination function directly affects the pace at which housing, commercial, and institutional development can move forward in Boston, making the recruitment and retention of qualified plans examiners a matter of significant consequence for the city's broader development pipeline and housing production goals; *and*

WHEREAS, Plans examiner positions require a specialized combination of technical training, typically in architecture, engineering, or construction management, along with knowledge of building codes and regulatory standards that is not easily acquired outside of formal academic or professional preparation; *and*

WHEREAS, The City has historically faced difficulty recruiting and retaining qualified candidates for plans examiner roles, in part because the technical prerequisites narrow the eligible applicant pool and because compensation and career pathways in municipal government can be less competitive than those in the private sector; *and*

WHEREAS, Wentworth Institute of Technology, located in Boston, offers degree programs in architecture, civil engineering, construction management, and related fields that provide precisely the foundational training relevant to plans examination work; *and*

WHEREAS, A formal or structured pipeline between Wentworth and the Inspectional Services Department could expand the qualified applicant pool, create meaningful career opportunities for Wentworth graduates in public service, and strengthen the City's long-term capacity to process permits efficiently; *and*

WHEREAS, A hearing would allow the Council to explore with the Administration the current staffing levels and vacancy history within the plans examiner classification, what barriers have impeded recruitment, and what a structured academic-to-municipal

workforce pathway might require in terms of curriculum alignment, internship or apprenticeship structures, civil service considerations, and interinstitutional partnership agreements; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council shall hold a hearing to discuss the feasibility and design of a workforce pipeline between Wentworth Institute of Technology and the City of Boston's Inspectional Services Department for plans examiner and related technical roles, with representatives from the Inspectional Services Department, the Office of Human Resources, and other relevant city officials, and with the participation of representatives from Wentworth Institute of Technology as appropriate.

Filed on: April 15, 2026