

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR HENRY SANTANA



## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING HOW THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT COLLECTS, USES, PROTECTS, AND SHARES INFORMATION THAT MAY BE REQUESTED BY EXTERNAL ENTITIES

**WHEREAS,** The Surveillance Oversight and Information Sharing Ordinance, Boston City Code Section 16-63, includes provisions for the Boston Police Department (BPD) and other City departments to report on their use of surveillance technologies, and for the City Council to conduct oversight thereof; pursuant to the Ordinance, the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice held a series of three hearings regarding recent filings by the Administration, specifically on Docket #2025-1355 on August 11, and on Dockets #2025-1356 and #2025-1357 on August 12 and August 19; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Based on the discussion topics during those hearings between Councilors and representatives of BPD, as well as the testimony of panelists representing community advocacy organizations for privacy, civil rights, and civil liberties, as well as testimony from members of the public, it is apparent that while the Surveillance Oversight and Information Sharing Ordinance provides means for transparency specifically about the use of certain technologies for law enforcement purposes, many of the questions and concerns of interest to Councilors and the community transcend the particular technologies involved, and instead broach broader topics of how BPD more generally collects and uses information, regardless of source, and further, how BPD protects the integrity and security of that information, and through what means and in what circumstances BPD shares or declines to share that information with other City departments and agencies, other law enforcement agencies, and other external entities.  
**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing regarding how the Boston Police Department collects, uses, protects, and shares information that may be requested by external entities. Representatives from the Boston Police Department, Boston Regional Intelligence Center, and community organizations with interest in the topic will be invited, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.

**Filed in Council:** February 25, 2026