



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING BARRIERS TO BUSINESS

WHEREAS: Small businesses often struggle to get off the ground due to cost and complexity of required licenses and fees; *and*

WHEREAS: The Institute for Justice recently released a report called “Barriers to Business” to study how regulatory burdens impact entrepreneurs across 20 cities including Boston; *and*

WHEREAS: The report documents that fees range from \$945 to start a barbershop to \$5,554 to start a restaurant in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS: The report scores Boston one out of five in a “one-stop shop” analysis, reporting that the city’s website does not effectively centralize information for entrepreneurs in an intuitive and organized way; *and*

WHEREAS: The report reveals the extremely complex process for starting a business stating that food truck entrepreneurs must complete 37 steps, restauranteurs 92 steps, and barbershop owners 81 steps; *and*

WHEREAS: There are additional barriers in Boston such as a “clean hands” requirement that means applicants for permits or licenses can be denied even if they owe a small amount of fines or fees to the City; *and*

WHEREAS: These burdensome requirements especially impact low-income MWBE entrepreneurs; *and*

WHEREAS: We need to do everything possible to support equitable recovery for entrepreneurs and small business owners as we come out of the COVID-19 pandemic; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the licensing and permitting barriers that small businesses face in the city of Boston and strategies to remove them and that representatives from the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Licensing, Inspectional Services, and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: January 11, 2023