

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BRIAN WORRELL,
BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FLYNN, FITZGERALD, MURPHY, PEPÉN,
SANTANA, WEBER, AND LOUIJEUNE



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING ON CITY OFFICES WITHOUT
ENABLING LEGISLATION IN THE MUNICIPAL CODE**

- WHEREAS,** Section 17B of the Boston City Charter states that “The city council may, subject to the approval of the mayor, from time to time establish such offices, other than that of clerk, as it may deem necessary for the conduct of its affairs”; *and*
- WHEREAS,** While the Council must enable new offices and departments through ordinance, the Mayor may create new offices at their discretion by hiring new personnel and realigning budgetary appropriations; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Many offices created in recent years do not have enabling legislation in the municipal code, including the Supplier Diversity office, the Mayor’s Office of LGBTQ+ Advancement, the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity, the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, and more; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Some offices are cited in the municipal code despite either not having enabling legislation or having pending enabling legislation, such as the Mayor’s Office of Immigrant Advancement; *and*
- WHEREAS,** At the same time, there are offices and departments within the municipal code that no longer exist or have had its responsibilities substantially changed, including the Housing Inspection Department, which was abolished and had all powers and duties transferred to the Inspectional Services Department by Ch. 19 of the Ordinances of 1981; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Many of these offices play a pivotal role in the provision of equitable city services, but without enabling legislation, their status as institutions within the municipal government remains impermanent and subject to political changes; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Furthermore, the City Council struggles to fulfill its role as an accountability and oversight body, having nothing to measure these offices against without enabling legislation; *and*

WHEREAS, While work is underway by the Council to codify some of these offices, including the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, a broader conversation on the ways in which these offices can be codified must take place to ensure that the city does not take a piecemeal approach to the important work of creating accountability and transparency mechanisms; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to audit the existence of offices which do not currently exist in the municipal code. Representatives from the administration, including the Equity and Inclusion Cabinet, the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity and the Supplier Diversity Office, in addition to members of the public are encouraged to testify.

Filed in Council: June 12, 2024