

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE A PILOT PROGRAM ALLOWING THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT TO DEPLOY NOISE CAMERAS

WHEREAS, Boston has struggled to dissuade and enforce street takeovers for years, with many late-night meetups occurring at prior meetup locations or at areas identified on social media; *and*

WHEREAS, The quality of life of many Bostonians is often disturbed by loud cars and mopeds involved in street takeovers in the middle of the night; *and*

WHEREAS, Despite the City Council approving funding in prior fiscal years for class sizes upward of 200 new officers, the Boston Police Department is staffed below mandated levels, causing longer response times to issues such as street takeovers or noise complaints; *and*

WHEREAS, Bostonians also suffer from noise pollution from altered vehicles that rise above the city-mandated noise level of 70 decibels from 7 am - 11 pm and above 50 decibels in all other hours; *and*

WHEREAS, In response to these challenges, other cities in the Northeast, including New York City, Providence, and Newport, R.I., have installed noise cameras to create automated enforcement of the noise ordinance as it relates to motor vehicles; *and*

WHEREAS, Newport's cameras, run by Custom Computer Solutions, cost \$22,000 and include solar capability to charge, while allowing the city to more efficiently deter and fine offenders; *and*

WHEREAS, The ACLU of Massachusetts expressed no general concerns over the use of this technology, as long as strong privacy protections are in place; *and*

WHEREAS, Discussions with officers and captains in District 4 show a willingness to use this technology, especially if the noise cameras are made portable so they can be moved from hotspot to hotspot proactively; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston should explore procurement and deployment of portable noise cameras as part of a pilot program to deal with recurring quality of life issues stemming from violations of the city's noise ordinance; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore the use of noise cameras, and representatives from the Boston Police Department; and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: August 3, 2026