

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSITY SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston, through its Office of Small Business, provides tools and guidance to support the creation, growth, and sustainability of small businesses; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The City currently delivers direct technical assistance through Neighborhood Business Managers and a network of approved experts and providers; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston is home to a concentration of world-class universities whose business students participate in consulting programs that provide technical assistance to businesses; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Despite the presence of both City-led technical assistance infrastructure and university-based consulting programs, the City does not currently maintain a formal, unified partnership that integrates these efforts into a coordinated system; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Establishing such a partnership would expand the City's capacity to provide high-quality, no-cost technical assistance to small businesses, particularly those located in historically underserved neighborhoods and commercial corridors; *and*

**WHEREAS,** A partnership model in which the City maintains intake and coordination through the Office of Small Business while designating universities as technical assistance partners would build on existing infrastructure without requiring the creation of an entirely new system; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council supports the creation of a University Small Business Technical Assistance Partnership, to be administered through the Office of Small Business, which would integrate participating universities into the City's existing small business support infrastructure by connecting supervised student consulting teams with small businesses identified through the City's outreach and intake processes; prioritize assistance to small businesses in vulnerable neighborhoods

and sectors, including retail, food service, and neighborhood services; establish defined project scopes including, but not limited to, financial management, marketing, e-commerce, operations, and procurement readiness; ensure appropriate faculty or program oversight to maintain quality and accountability; create a framework for tracking outcomes including businesses served, neighborhoods reached, student participation, and measurable business impacts; and encourages the Mayor and the Office of Small Business to explore launching a pilot version of this partnership and to provide a report to the Boston City Council on its feasibility and implementation.

Filed on: April 29, 2026