

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, BRIAN J. WORRELL, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, SANTANA, WEBER, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE CREATION OF A SMALL BUSINESSES VANDALISM RELIEF FUND

- WHEREAS,** Boston's nearly 40,000 small businesses are the cornerstone of our community, providing vital services and creating meaningful work for residents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Vandalism, including the destruction of storefront property by reckless driving, erratic behavior, or aerosol paint as examples, has complex sociological causes that small businesses are not individually responsible for; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Vandalism has negative psychological impacts on community residents, evoking feelings of fear and anger that foster community indifference; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston's small businesses have weathered a number of these recent events, including smashed windows at Rozzie Bound Co-Op and Effie's Kitchen; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The U.S. Small Business Administration estimates that the average cost for a small business from a single incident of vandalism is \$3,370, an amount that can impose a substantial financial burden or cause closure of businesses; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Cities across the United States have dedicated financial resources to relief funds for small businesses that have been vandalized, including San Francisco (CA), Billings (MT), and Jacksonville (FL). Grants from these relief funds range between \$1,000 to \$5,000 based on a variety of factors and requirements; *and*
- WHEREAS,** For the purposes of these relief funds, small businesses are often defined as businesses with a public-facing store front and having either fewer than 10 employees or less than \$8 million in gross revenues;
- WHEREAS,** The Property Management Department currently provides graffiti cleanup services for private property. There is a need to expand repair services to include other kinds of minor damages frequently encountered by small businesses; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the possibility of creating a 'Small Business Vandalism Relief Fund'. Representatives from appropriate departments of the administration will be invited, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.

Filed on: May 15, 2024