



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION URGING SUPPORT FOR A BUDGET  
AMENDMENT TO FULLY FUND THE OFFICE OF  
VETERANS' SERVICES**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Boston has a responsibility to support veterans, military families, surviving spouses, and all those who have served our country; and

**WHEREAS**, The Office of Veterans' Services provides critical outreach, assistance, programming, advocacy, and support to Boston veterans and their families; and

**WHEREAS**, Veterans and active-duty service members from Boston have served and continue to serve our nation in times of war and peace, including residents who are currently deployed, and the City's commitment to them must be reflected not only in words, but in the budget decisions we make; and

**WHEREAS**, The proposed FY27 budget includes a reduction of approximately \$724,000 to the Office of Veterans' Services, representing a cut of more than 14%; and

**WHEREAS**, The Office of Veterans' Services is already one of the smallest funded departments in the City of Boston, meaning it has very little room to absorb a reduction of this size without affecting services, outreach, programming, and support; and

**WHEREAS**, While many departments have been asked to make reductions in a difficult budget year, a 14% cut does not have the same impact across every department; and

**WHEREAS**, For comparison, a 14% cut to Boston Public Schools would represent more than \$240 million, a 14% cut to the Boston Police Department would represent nearly \$68 million, and a 14% cut to the Boston Fire Department would represent more than \$47 million; and

**WHEREAS**, These comparisons make clear that the amount needed to restore the Office of Veterans' Services is modest in the context of the overall City budget, but the impact of the cut on veterans, military families, and surviving spouses would be significant; and

**WHEREAS**, Much of the work of the Office of Veterans' Services depends on limited and dedicated resources, including grant-supported programming, and when those resources are reduced or eliminated, the department has fewer options to shift funding or backfill services; and

**WHEREAS**, This is the fifth year that the Boston City Council has had budget amendment authority, but the first time the Council is facing a budget cycle defined by real cuts and difficult choices rather than the ability to add funding from a surplus; and

**WHEREAS**, The Council's budget amendment authority has historically been used to add new funding and advance additional priorities, but this budget cycle is different because the Council is facing real cuts, and restoring funding to protect services for veterans, military families, and surviving spouses must come first; and

**WHEREAS**, While advocating for a specific budget amendment through a resolution may not be how amendment requests have typically been advanced in past budget cycles, the urgency of this proposed cut requires every available tool to protect the Office of Veterans' Services and the residents it serves; and

**WHEREAS**, The veterans, military families, and surviving spouses served by the Office of Veterans' Services should not be asked to absorb a cut that the City has the ability to restore; and

**WHEREAS**, A budget is a statement of values, and the Council's votes and support during this process will show whether the City is willing to protect the services owed to veterans, military families, and surviving spouses; and

**WHEREAS**, Councilors Murphy and Flynn intend to file a budget amendment to restore the approximately \$724,000 reduction and fully fund the Office of Veterans' Services; now, therefore be it

**RESOLVED**, That the Boston City Council supports fully funding the Office of Veterans' Services in the FY27 budget; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the Boston City Council urges support for Councilors Murphy and Flynn's budget amendment to restore the proposed reduction and protect the services, outreach, programming, advocacy, and support that Boston's veterans, military families, and surviving spouses deserve.

Filed in Council: May 6, 2026