

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, JULIA M. MEJIA, BREADON, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, AND PEPÉN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE THE CREATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC BATHROOM FACILITIES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, In a city of more than 700,000 people, public bathrooms remain a scarce resource for many residents across the City of Boston, with entire areas of the city that do not have public facilities outside of privately-owned spaces that may allow for occasional access to the public, which is not the same as a public restroom that is freely accessible to our residents when they need it; *and*

WHEREAS, This points to a lack of proper space for people to address their needs in private, and compounds disparities for already marginalized populations such as those with disabilities and/or health complications, and breastfeeding and menstruating residents who need access to free, sanitary, private spaces to take care of their needs; *and*

WHEREAS, While libraries and community centers offer access to public bathrooms when they're open, many of those facilities are open for 8 hours a day and less than 7 days a week, leaving sporadic public access; *and*

WHEREAS, The lack of access to free public restrooms poses a significant public health concern with the potential to contribute to the spread of illness and disease; *and*

WHEREAS, Other cities present examples of sustainable public bathroom programs, such as Cambridge, which piloted a successful Portland Loo model in 2018 that has now become a neighborhood staple; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine best practices and models for establishing and maintaining free and accessible public restrooms across the City of Boston, and that members from the Parks Department, Public Works, the Boston Water and Sewer Commission, the Boston Public Health Commission, advocates and experts in public health, disability rights and feminist equity spaces, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend and testify.

Filed on: June 1, 2026