

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, JULIA MEJIA, COLETTA ZAPATA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER AND LOUIJEUNE



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING BARRIERS TO BUSINESS

- WHEREAS:** Small businesses often struggle to get off the ground due to cost and complexity of required licenses and fees; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Institute for Justice recently released a report called “Barriers to Business” to study how regulatory burdens impact entrepreneurs across 20 cities including Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The report documents that fees range from \$945 to start a barbershop to \$5,554 to start a restaurant in Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The report scores Boston one out of five in a “one-stop shop” analysis, reporting that the city’s website does not effectively centralize information for entrepreneurs in an intuitive and organized way; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The report reveals the extremely complex process for starting a business stating that food truck entrepreneurs must complete 37 steps, restaurateurs 92 steps, and barbershop owners 81 steps; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston requires that business owners pay just to play a radio and for each widescreen television; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City’s license renewal process requires all licenses to be renewed in a specific month, often resulting in new business owners being charged twice in their first year and overburdening City employees during renewal periods; *and*
- WHEREAS:** These burdensome requirements especially impact low-income MWBE entrepreneurs; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Our small businesses provide unique experiences, keep money in our communities, and help to create destination neighborhoods; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston can help support our local entrepreneurs by removing these barriers to business; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the licensing and permitting barriers that small businesses face in the city of Boston and strategies to remove them and that representatives from the Office

of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Licensing, Inspectional Services, and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: January 3, 2025