

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BENJAMIN J. WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW SAFETY OF THE OPERATION OF HEAVY COMMERCIAL VEHICLES AND POTENTIAL MEASURES TO PROTECT PEDESTRIANS AND CYCLISTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Heavy commercial vehicles such as 18-wheel trucks with trailers pose a significant danger to pedestrians and cyclists, particularly on the cramped streets of Boston, and have been reported to be involved with many fatal crashes throughout the country; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Police Department determined that the crash that killed City of Boston bike safety advocate Louisa Gag on July 9, 2026 involved an 18-wheel truck transporting construction demolition material along Tremont Street in Mission Hill; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has taken steps to limit the danger posed by large commercial vehicles operating on its streets. Article VII of the City's Traffic Rules and Regulations states that there are certain streets where heavy commercial vehicles are prohibited. A list of these streets are on file at the office of the Boston Transportation Department; *and*

WHEREAS, In addition, in 2014 Mayor Martin J. Walsh signed a first-of-its-kind Truck Side Guard ordinance which required City agencies to only contract with vendors that had side guards, convex mirrors, cross-over mirrors, and blind-spot awareness decals properly installed on large motor vehicles weighing over 10,000 lbs. and semi-trailers weighing over 26,000 lbs.; *and*

WHEREAS, On July 24, 2026, in response to the tragic death of Louisa Gag, Mayor Michelle Wu authored a public letter pledging to "work to advance more comprehensive truck safety legislation, strengthen side-guard enforcement, review City routes used by heavy commercial vehicles, and assess additional safety measures to prevent future crashes."; *and*

WHEREAS, To establish effective safety regulations over the operation of heavy commercial vehicles in dense urban areas will require coordination between the City of Boston and the State to ensure that more than a limited number of trucks are equipped with necessary safety measures;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review current and proposed protective measures regarding heavy commercial vehicle operations on City streets. This review shall include route limits, safety equipment requirements for trucks operating in the City, and additional measures needed to prevent future fatal crashes, with members of the Streets Cabinet, advocates, and the public invited to attend.

Filed on: August 5, 2026