

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR FLYNN, ARROYO, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA,
LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND BREADON



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION TO IMPROVE SAFETY ALONG DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION PARKWAYS IN THE FENWAY

WHEREAS, Under the leadership of Ways and Means Chair Representative Aaron Michlewitz, the state legislature passed H.5103, "An act to reduce traffic fatalities." This law grants new petitioning power to City officials on matters of pedestrian safety; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston maintains its Vision Zero standards for Traffic Fatalities, a strong commitment to eliminating fatal and serious traffic crashes in the city by 2030; *and*

WHEREAS, Whereas pedestrian deaths across Massachusetts increased by 35% in 2022 with Boston having the highest number of pedestrian deaths across the state; *and*

WHEREAS, The Back Bay Fens is a highly trafficked pedestrian space in the City of Boston frequented by residents and visitors alike; *and*

WHEREAS, The Fens is currently flanked by two DCR Parkways, Park Drive and The Fenway, that host multiple traffic lanes, inadequate safety measures at pedestrian crossings, and a natural traffic speed that exceeds the posted 30 mph speed limit, imposing an acutely dangerous situation for pedestrians; *and*

WHEREAS, Whereas these DCR Parkways were in the top 5% of pedestrian/vehicular and cyclist/vehicular conflicts between 2011 and 2020; *and*

WHEREAS, According to the World Health Organization, a 5% cut in average speed can reduce the number of fatal crashes by as much as 30%; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council supports and requests that the Commissioner of DCR reduces the speed limit for the parkways adjacent to The Fens from 30 mph to the citywide standard of 25 mph, in order to improve pedestrian safety and access to one of Boston's most and beloved parks as part of the City's ongoing mission to ensure the safety of pedestrians across the whole of Boston.

Filed on: July 19, 2023