OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN, LIZ BREADON, AND HENRY SANTANA



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING THE CITY OF BOSTON CODE CHAPTER X SECTION 10, UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTABILITY

- **WHEREAS,** The City of Boston Code on University Accountability (10-10) was enacted to enhance the City of Boston's ability to more effectively provide requisite public services by requiring post-secondary institutions to collect and report comprehensive data on their locally residing off-campus student populations; and
- **WHEREAS,** The ordinance aims to improve public safety, regulatory enforcement, and the quality of life in neighborhoods impacted by significant off-campus student populations; and
- **WHEREAS,** The ordinance requires Boston-based institutions of higher education to maintain a directory of student information, monitor compliance with zoning regulations, and report detailed statistics to the City annually; *and*
- WHEREAS, The Committee on Housing and Community Development held a hearing on August 5, 2025, to assess the efficacy of the ordinance in addressing housing stability, neighborhood cohesion, and quality-of-life concerns in areas with high concentrations of student housing; and
- **WHEREAS,** Following the hearing and subsequent working session, Councilors discussed amendments to strengthen the ordinance by ensuring more accurate reporting and by improving the utility of student housing data in shaping City housing policy; and
- WHEREAS, Public testimony and recommendations from the Mayor's Office of Housing and local universities highlighted that the current October 1 reporting deadline does not allow sufficient time to collect accurate and complete data, and that moving the deadline to November 1 would strike a more effective balance between timeliness and accuracy; and
- WHEREAS, The Student Housing Trends Report, published annually by the Mayor's Office of Housing using this data, provides critical insight into enrollment, student housing locations, and impacts on the City's housing market, and should be used proactively to inform City planning, housing policy, and institutional master planning; and

WHEREAS, Requiring the Housing and Community Development Committee to hold an annual hearing reviewing the Student Housing Trends Report will ensure that data collected under this ordinance is operationalized to advance housing stability, protect neighborhood quality of life, and guide institutional accountability; NOW THEREFORE

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:

SECTION 1:

The City of Boston Code, Chapter X shall be amended by striking out CBC 10-10.4 (A) and replacing it with the following:

(A) Each and every school shall supply a report with required statistics to the city. The information in the report shall be compiled by the school before November 1 of the fall semester. The information in the report shall be compiled by the school on or before November 1 of each calendar year.

SECTION 2:

The City of Boston Code Chapter X shall be amended by adding the following new section at the end thereof:

10-10.9 Annual Hearing.

The Housing and Community Development Committee shall hold an annual hearing following the release of the Mayor's Office of Housing Student Housing Trends Report. The hearing shall review the report's findings and explore how these trends can inform city planning, housing policy, and institutional master planning.

Filed on: September 29, 2025