

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MINIARD CULPEPPER, BENJAMIN WEBER, SHARON DURKAN, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WORRELL



## **CITY OF BOSTON**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX**

### **ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE WEATHER EMERGENCY POLICIES FOR UNHOUSED INDIVIDUALS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON AND COORDINATION WITH HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS AND THE MASSACHUSETTS BAY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY**

**WHEREAS,** On February 11, 2026, the Boston City Council unanimously adopted Docket #0353: Resolution recognizing the avoidable tragic death of Carvell Curry and urging the City and Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority to adopt compassionate cold-weather emergency shelter policies; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Extreme cold, extreme heat, and severe weather conditions are known life-threatening hazards for individuals experiencing homelessness and may increase the risk of injury, illness, or death when adequate shelter options are not readily accessible; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Winter weather emergencies, heat emergencies, and other severe weather events demand proactive, humane, and flexible emergency response protocols that prioritize human safety and dignity for unhoused individuals; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Government-owned and controlled properties, including indoor public facilities, may serve as potential safe spaces for unhoused individuals during declared weather emergencies when coordinated access policies are implemented; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, as a steward of public transit infrastructure and public-facing facilities throughout Boston, plays an important role in ensuring that its policies and practices during severe weather events are coordinated with City emergency responses; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Housing and homelessness assistance providers are critical partners in the City's response to severe weather emergencies affecting unhoused individuals, including through outreach, shelter access, and supportive services; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Effective emergency responses to extreme weather conditions requires clear, written protocols between the City, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation

Authority, and housing and homelessness assistance providers to ensure timely coordination and communication during declared weather emergencies; *and*

***WHEREAS,*** A comprehensive understanding of existing policies, procedures, and coordination efforts between City agencies, transit authorities, and service providers is necessary to ensure that unhoused individuals are able to access safe shelter and services during severe weather events; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

***ORDERED:*** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine weather emergency policies currently in place for unhoused individuals in Boston, including the level of coordination between the City, housing and homelessness assistance providers, and the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority during extreme cold, extreme heat, and other severe weather events, and to assess opportunities for improved collaboration, communication, and access to safe shelter during declared weather emergencies, and that representatives from the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, housing and homelessness assistance providers, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: February 25, 2026