



ORDER OF BUSINESS FOR MATTERS PRESENTED TO THE CITY CLERK PRIOR TO 10:00 A.M. ON MONDAY, JANUARY 6, 2025 FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A REGULAR MEETING IN THE CHRISTOPHER IANNELLA CHAMBER ON WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 8, 2025 AT 12:00 P.M.

ROLL CALL

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

COMMUNICATIONS FROM HER HONOR, THE MAYOR:

0112 Message and order for your approval an Order to reduce the FY25 appropriation for the Reserve for Collective Bargaining by Six Million Six Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$6,637,486.00) to provide funding for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for the FY25 impact of increases contained with the collective bargaining agreement between the Transdev and its bus drivers.

0113 Message and order for a supplemental appropriation Order for the FY25 appropriation for the Reserve for Collective Bargaining by Six Million Six Hundred Thirty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Eighty-Six Dollars (\$6,637,486.00) to cover the impact of FY25 cost items contained within the Collective Bargaining agreement between Transdev and its bus drivers on the City's transportation contract with the vendor, Transdev. The term of the contract is July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2028. The major provisions of the contract include a market rate adjustment, an increase for regular wages and an increase in minimum weekly hours from 31 to 35. Filed in the Office of the City Clerk on January 6, 2025.

- 0114** Message and order for your approval an Order to reduce the FY25 appropriation for the Reserve for Collective Bargaining by Four Hundred Twenty One Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$421,318.00) to provide funding for the Mayor's Office of Housing for the FY25 increases contained within the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Boston and SEIU Local 888, Mayor's Office of Housing.
- 0115** Message and order for a supplemental appropriation for the Mayor's Office of Housing for FY25 in the amount of Four Hundred Twenty-One Thousand Three Hundred Eighteen Dollars (\$421,318.00) to cover the FY25 cost contained within the collective bargaining agreements between the City of Boston and SEIU, Local 888 Mayor's Office of Housing. The terms of the contracts are October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2027. The major provisions of the contracts include base wage increases of 2% to be given in January of each fiscal year of the contract term and flat amounts of \$250.00, \$500.00, \$900.00, and \$800.00 to be added to annual salaries in January of each fiscal year.
Filed in the Office of the City Clerk on January 6, 2025.
- 0116** Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Sixty Thousand One Hundred Sixty-Nine Dollars and Seventy Cents (\$860,169.70) in the form of a grant for the One Stop Career Center grant, awarded by MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office of Workforce Development. The grant will fund comprehensive career services and resources to unemployed job seekers such as reviewing job postings, career counseling and job coaching, education/skills training, and job placement assistance.
- 0117** Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Ninety-Three Thousand Seven Hundred Fifty Dollars (\$593,750.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY25 Hazmat Earmark grant, awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund the needs of the hazardous materials response teams, as specified the line items 8324-0000 and 8324-0050 of the FY25 General Appropriation Act.

- 0118** Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Hundred Ninety-Five Thousand Seven Hundred Forty-Six Dollars (\$395,746.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY24 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, awarded by United States Department of Justice to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund a Domestic Violence Management Analyst at the Family Justice Center, a Hub & Center of Responsibility Coordinator, and a Technology Coordinator for multiple data collection, reporting, and record management systems.
- 0119** Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY22 COVID-19 SA/DV Trust Fund, awarded by the MA Department of Public Health to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund two full-time Domestic Violence advocates who will work with social services agency partners at the Boston Public Health Commission Family Justice Center.
- 0120** Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Thirty-Six Thousand Six Hundred Thirty-Eight Dollars (\$36,638.00) in the form of a grant, for FY23 Mass Trails Grant, awarded by the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation to be administered by the Transportation Department. The grant will fund the enhancement of trails and trail access in the Dorchester Community.
- 0121** Message and order authorizing the city of Boston to accept and expend a donation of a Vectra Fitness Cable Multi Station Weight Machine, valued at Twelve Thousand Five Hundred Ninety-Nine Dollars (\$12,599.00) donated by Fitness Equipment Service of New England. The purpose of this donation is to enhance the fitness program and facilities at the BCYF Roslindale Center for the benefit of the Roslindale neighborhood.
- 0122** Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend an in-kind donation of 200 rakes donated by Northeastern University's Department of City and Community Engagement. The purpose of this donation is to be used during the "Love Your Block" program, which organizes residents to do a cleanup in their neighborhood.

- 0123** Message and order for your approval an Order to declare surplus City-owned computers that are no longer of use to City employees. Once the Department of Innovation and Technology determines that a City-owned computer has reached the end of its useful life and has little to no resale value, the Department wishes to donate the surplus computers to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 30B § 15. The computers would be sanitized by the Department of Innovation and Technology in accordance with industry standards to remove any City data prior to donation. The computers would then be refurbished by a charitable organization for future use by Boston residents to close the digital divide.
- 0124** Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of J. Andres Bernal as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeal, for a term expiring July 1, 2027.

PETITIONS, MEMORIALS AND REMONSTRANCES

REPORTS OF PUBLIC OFFICERS AND OTHERS:

- 0125** Notice was received from the Mayor of the reappointment of Michael O'Neill as a member to the Boston School Committee, for a term expiring January 2, 2029.
- 0126** Notice was received from the Mayor of the appointment of Sandra Kautz as an Associate Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Commission, for a term expiring December 31, 2027.
- 0127** Communication was received from the City Clerk transmitting a communication from the Landmarks Commission for City Council action on the designation of Petition #224.07, Boston City Hall, 1 City Hall Square Boston, MA 02201, as a Landmark (in effect after February 7, 2025 if not acted upon).
- 0128** Communication was received from the Police Commissioner Michael A. Cox in accordance with Section 3 of the Boston Trust Act regarding civil immigration detainer results for calendar year 2024.
- 0129** Communication was received from Timothy J. Smyth, Executive Officer of the Boston Retirement Board, regarding a special election schedule for a vacant Retirement Board seat.

0130 Communication was received from Timothy J. Smyth, Executive Officer of the Boston Retirement Board, regarding the resignations of Daniel J. Greene and Michael D. O'Reilly from the Boston Retirement Board effective December 18, 2024.

0131 Communication was received from Kairos Shen, Chief of Planning, regarding a proposed minor modification to the Washington Park Urban Renewal Plan.

0132 Communication was received from Councilor Coletta Zapata regarding the Report of the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks. Boston Rising: Building a Resilient City on a Hill Through Local Climate Action.

0133 Communication was received from Councilor Flynn regarding continued elevator challenges at the Ruth Barkley Apartments.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES:

MATTERS RECENTLY HEARD-FOR POSSIBLE ACTION:

MOTIONS, ORDERS AND RESOLUTIONS:

0134 **Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Ordinance to enhance driveway accessibility.

0135 **Councilor Weber and Pepén offered the following:** Ordinance to protect workers from heat-related illness and injuries in the City of Boston.

0136 **Councilor Coletta Zapata and Mejia offered the following:** Ordinance establishing street food enterprises in the City of Boston Municipal Code by inserting Chapter 17, Section 22, Permitting and Regulation of non-motorized street food carts.

0137 **Councilor Coletta Zapata offered the following:** Ordinance regarding employee safety within Boston's oil terminals.

0138 **Councilor Louijeune offered the following:** Ordinance codifying the Office of Returning Citizens.

0139 **Councilor Weber and Mejia offered the following:** Ordinance preventing wage theft in the City of Boston.

0140 **Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Ordinance establishing the Office of Inspector General within the City of Boston.

- 0141** **Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Petition for a Special Law re: An Act Relative to the Reorganization of the Boston School Committee.
- 0142** **Councilor Murphy offered the following:** Petition for a Special Law re: An Act Authorizing the City of Boston to Increase its Residential Exemption.
- 0143** **Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Petition for a Special Law Re: An Act Relative to Senior Homeowner Property Tax Exemption.
- 0144** **Councilor Louijeune and Mejia offered the following:** Petition for a Special Law Re: Ranked Choice Voting in Boston.
- 0145** **Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Petition for a Special Law Re: To establish the Commission of Inspectors General on Financial Management.
- 0146** **Councilor Breadon and Louijeune offered the following:** Petition for a Special Law re: An Act requiring that broker fees in the City of Boston be paid by the party who solicits a licensed broker.
- 0147** **Councilor Murphy and Flynn offered the following:** Order for a hearing to address growing concerns over the White Stadium Project's costs, community input, and transparency.
- 0148** **Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss Boston Public Schools' FY26 Budget.
- 0149** **Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss BPS' plans to protect students during heat emergencies.
- 0150** **Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to review the distribution of Boston's 225 new liquor licenses and provide ongoing support to restaurateurs.
- 0151** **Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to explore scholarships for Boston students to increase access to all forms of higher education.
- 0152** **Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding barriers to business.
- 0153** **Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to explore the summer community plan.

- 0154 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to bring NBA All-Star Weekend and the MLB All-Star Game to Boston.
- 0155 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to create indoor playgrounds in the City of Boston.
- 0156 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss the creation of cultural districts in Boston.
- 0157 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding providing technical assistance to civic associations and outlining best practices for civic associations.
- 0158 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to address problem properties in Boston.
- 0159 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing to review and establish a "Business Owner 101" program for grant recipients.
- 0160 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing on a proposal for a Crispus Attucks statue.
- 0161 Councilor Durkan and Santana offered the following:** Order for a hearing to explore amending the Boston Zoning Code to remove parking minimum requirements for new development.
- 0162 Councilor Murphy offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding the use of nondisclosure, confidentiality, and any and all other types of employment agreements.
- 0163 Councilor Murphy offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss enhanced public safety measures during large events in Boston.
- 0164 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss 2024 crime statistics.
- 0165 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss the process of establishing Hero Squares in the City of Boston.
- 0166 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss services for women veterans.
- 0167 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss resources for the Boston Police Crime Laboratory.

- 0168 Councilor Fernandes Anderson offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss a holistic vision for District Seven in order to redress historic racial harm and to uphold District Seven Constituents' Civil Rights.
- 0169 Councilor Coletta Zapata and FitzGerald offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding the implementation and funding of coastal resilience strategies and the establishment of a climate bank.
- 0170 Councilor Coletta Zapata and Mejia offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss food access, sustainability, and the need for a food hub in East Boston.
- 0171 Councilor Coletta Zapata and Louijeune offered the following:** Order for a hearing to establish a climate change and environmental justice curriculum pilot program in Boston Public Schools.
- 0172 Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Order for a hearing to address critical issues in jail-based voting and empower incarcerated communities to strengthen democracy.
- 0173 Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Order for a hearing to audit the distribution of local, state, and federal grants to small businesses.
- 0174 Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Order for a hearing to audit government transparency and accountability towards surveillance equipment.
- 0175 Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Order for a hearing to audit the City of Boston's procurement processes, procedures and progress.
- 0176 Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Order for a hearing on government accountability, transparency, and accessibility of decision making protocols in city government.
- 0177 Councilor Mejia offered the following:** Order for a hearing to audit the City of Boston's hiring, firing and promotion policies, practices and procedures.
- 0178 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding the Homeownership Voucher program.
- 0179 Councilor Louijeune offered the following:** Order for a hearing to discuss efforts to cancel medical debt.

- 0180 Councilor Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding equity in City contracts.
- 0181 Councilor Louijeune and Pepén offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding voter accessibility and election preparedness.
- 0182 Councilor Louijeune and Weber offered the following:** Order for a hearing to explore the effectiveness of high-dosage tutoring and other academic recovery strategies.
- 0183 Councilor Louijeune and Coletta Zapata offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding the City of Boston's response to sexual assault, domestic violence, and related resources for survivors.
- 0184 Councilor Louijeune and Coletta Zapata offered the following:** Order for a hearing on the needs and services for recent migrant populations.
- 0185 Councilor Louijeune and Fernandes Anderson offered the following:** Order for a hearing regarding the state of anti-displacement as to Boston's Acquisition Opportunity Program.
- 0186 Councilor Louijeune and Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing on a cross-sector collaborative citywide strategy for community safety and violence prevention.
- 0187 Councilor Louijeune and Worrell offered the following:** Order for a hearing on the civil rights and liberties of returning citizens and re-entry into their Boston communities.
- 0188 Councilor Louijeune and Fernandes Anderson offered the following:** Order for a hearing on discrimination in lending and appraisals.
- 0189 Councilor Durkan offered the following:** Order regarding a Text Amendment to the Boston Zoning Code Regarding the Bulfinch Triangle District Use Regulations.
- 0190 Councilor Weber offered the following:** Order to implement a nondisclosure agreement prohibition policy for Boston City Council.
- 0191 Councilor Murphy offered the following:** Order requesting certain information under Section 17F regarding all newly created job positions.
- 0192 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Resolution in support of an ethics committee at the Boston City Council.

- 0193 Councilor Mejia and Breadon offered the following:** Resolution supporting the full disbursement of unspent appropriations for participatory budgeting from fiscal years 2023 to 2025.
- 0194 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Resolution in support of a domestic violence and sexual assault committee at the Boston City Council.
- 0195 Councilor Flynn and Murphy offered the following:** Resolution supporting Project Labor Agreements at White Stadium and all City of Boston construction projects valued at or more than \$35 million.

PERSONNEL ORDERS:

- 0196** Councilor Louijeune for Councilor Mejia offered the following: Order for the appointment of temporary employee John D. Moore in City Council, effective January 14, 2025.
- 0197** Councilor Louijuene for Councilor Fernandes Anderson offered the following: Order for the appointment of temporary employee Tiffany Cogwell in City Council, effective December 19, 2024.
- 0198** Councilor Louijeune for Councilor Mejia offered the following: Order for the appointment of temporary employee Kori-Reign Tyler in City Council, effective January 11, 2025.

GREEN SHEETS:

- 8/25** Legislative Calendar for January 8, 2025.

CONSENT AGENDA:

- 0199 Councilor FitzGerald offered the following:** Resolution recognizing the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute.
- 0200 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Resolution recognizing Boston Debate League.
- 0201 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Resolution recognizing Wang YMCA of Chinatown.
- 0202 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Resolution recognizing New England YuanJi Dance Association.
- 0203 Councilor Flynn offered the following:** Resolution recognizing New England Kung Fu Dance Association.

- 0204** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Massachusetts Sickle Cell Association.
- 0205** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing the City of Boston's 4th Annual Army and Navy Game.
- 0206** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Dr. Robert and Amy Wu.
- 0207** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Sean Jacobsen.
- 0208** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Laura Liu.
- 0209** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Veronica Leon.
- 0210** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Jesse Blank.
- 0211** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Nancybella Rago.
- 0212** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Polish American Citizens Club.
- 0213** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution recognizing Wreaths Across America.
- 0214** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution in memory of Michael Doyle McNally.
- 0215** Councilor Flynn offered the following: Resolution in memory of Sheila Lynch.
- 0216** Councilor Worrell offered the following: Resolution recognizing 43 individuals for their years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.
- 0217** Councilor Pepén offered the following: Resolution recognizing Blue Mountain Jamaican Restaurant.
- 0218** Councilor Pepén offered the following: Resolution recognizing Dr. Jean Bonet.

- 0219** Councilor Pepén offered the following: Resolution recognizing Oenone Calixte.
- 0220** Councilor Pepén offered the following: Resolution recognizing Edna Etienne.
- 0221** Councilor Pepén offered the following: Resolution recognizing Irlande Plancher.
- 0222** Councilor Louijeune offered the following: Resolution congratulating Haitian-Americans United.
- 0223** Councilor Louijeune offered the following: Resolution congratulating Rev. Dr. Othon Noel.
- 0224** Councilor Louijeune offered the following: Resolution congratulating Frederick Richard.
- 0225** Councilor Coletta Zapata offered the following: Resolution recognizing Alex Hampton.
- 0226** Councilor Coletta Zapata offered the following: Resolution in memory of Alfonso DiPietro.
- 0227** Councilor Coletta Zapata offered the following: Resolution recognizing 21 students from the ESOL program at Maverick Landing Community Services.
- 0228** Councilor Coletta Zapata offered the following: Resolution in memory of David G. "Uncle David" Powers.
- 0229** Councilor Louijeune and Breadon offered the following: Resolution in memory of Catherine F. Kyriakides.



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

January 6, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval an order to reduce the FY25 appropriation for the Reserve for Collective Bargaining by six million, six hundred thirty-seven thousand, four hundred eighty-six dollars (\$6,637,486) to provide funding for the Boston Public Schools (BPS) for the FY25 impact of increases contained within the collective bargaining agreement between Transdev and its bus drivers.

I respectfully request your favorable action on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

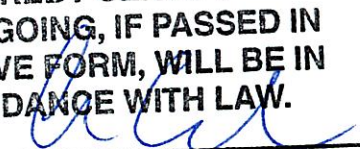
AN ORDER REDUCING THE FY25 APPROPRIATION FOR THE RESERVE FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BY SIX MILLION, SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$6,637,486).

ORDERED: That the appropriation heretofore made, to meet the current operating expenses in the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, be reduced by the following amount:

100-999000-51000 Reserve for Collective Bargaining \$6,637,486

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**

BY


ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL *Kmw*



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

January 6, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith a supplemental appropriation order for the Boston Public Schools for FY25 in the amount of six million, six hundred thirty-seven thousand, four hundred eighty-six dollars (\$6,637,486) to cover the impact of FY25 cost items contained within the collective bargaining agreement between Transdev and its bus drivers on the City's transportation contract with the vendor, Transdev. The term of the contract is July 1, 2024 – June 30, 2028. The major provisions of the contract include a market rate adjustment and increase for regular wages, an increase in charter wages, and an increase in minimum weekly hours from 31 to 35.

As originally presented to you, the FY25 budget request included a Reserve for Collective Bargaining - a separate appropriation to fund projected collective bargaining increases. A separate order has been filed to reduce that appropriation to support this supplemental request.

I respectfully request your support of this supplemental appropriation.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

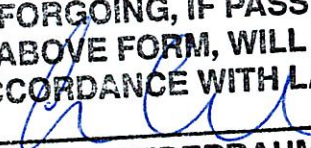
CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING SIX MILLION, SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$6,637,486) TO COVER THE FY25 COST ITEMS CONTAINED WITHIN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN TRANSDEV AND ITS BUS DRIVERS.

ORDERED: That in addition to the appropriations heretofore made, to meet the current operating expenses of the fiscal period commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, the sum of SIX MILLION, SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-SEVEN THOUSAND, FOUR HUNDRED EIGHTY-SIX DOLLARS (\$6,437,486) be, and the same hereby is appropriated as follows, said sum to be met from available funds pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws:

Boston Public Schools

\$6,637,486

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**
BY 
ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL *Kmw*



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

January 6, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval an Order to reduce the FY25 appropriation for the Reserve for Collective Bargaining by four hundred twenty-one thousand, three hundred eighteen dollars (\$421,318) to provide funding for the Mayor's Office of Housing for the FY25 increases contained within the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Boston and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 888, Mayor's Office of Housing.

I respectfully request your favorable action on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

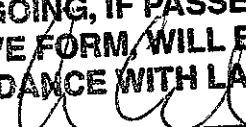


CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER REDUCING THE FY25 APPROPRIATION FOR THE RESERVE FOR COLLECTIVE BARGAINING BY FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN DOLLARS (\$421,318)

ORDERED: That the appropriation heretofore made, to meet the current operating expenses in the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, be reduced by the following amount:

100-999000-51000 Reserve for Collective Bargaining \$421,318

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**
BY 
**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL** *Kim W*



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

January 6, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith a supplemental appropriation order for the Mayor's Office of Housing FY25 in the amount of four hundred twenty-one thousand, three hundred eighteen dollars (\$421,318) to cover the FY25 cost items contained within the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Boston and the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Local 888, Mayor's Office of Housing. The terms of the contract are October 1, 2023 through September 30, 2027. The major provisions of the contract include base wage increases of 2%, to be given in January of each fiscal year of the contract term and flat amounts of \$250, \$500, \$900, \$800 to be added to annual salaries in January of each fiscal year after the percent increase. The agreement also includes an increase to on-call pay and the uniform allowance.

As originally presented to you, the FY25 budget request included a Reserve for Collective Bargaining - a separate appropriation to fund projected collective bargaining increases. A separate order has been filed to reduce that appropriation to support this supplemental request.

I respectfully request your support of this supplemental appropriation.

Sincerely,

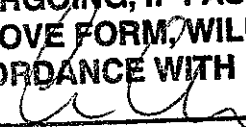
Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER APPROPRIATING BY FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN DOLLARS (\$421,318) TO COVER THE FY25 COST ITEMS CONTAINED WITHIN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF BOSTON AND SEIU, LOCAL 888, MAYOR'S OFFICE OF HOUSING.

ORDERED: That in addition to the appropriations heretofore made, to meet the current operating expenses of the fiscal period commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, the sum of FOUR HUNDRED TWENTY-ONE THOUSAND, THREE HUNDRED EIGHTEEN DOLLARS (\$421,318) be, and the same hereby is appropriated as follows, said sum to be met from available funds and taxation pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws: -

188000	Mayor's Office of Housing	Personnel Services	\$408,318
188000	Mayor's Office of Housing	Supplies & Materials	\$13,000

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**
BY 
**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL** *AMW*



City Of Boston • Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

01-06-2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY CENTS (**\$860,169.70**) in the form of a grant, One Stop Career Center grant, awarded by MassHire Department of Career Services to be administered by the Office Workforce Development.

The grant would fund comprehensive career services and resources to unemployed job seekers such as reviewing job postings, career counseling and job coaching, education/skills training, and job placement assistance.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order so that the City of Boston may accept the funds expeditiously and expend them upon award for the purposes for which they are granted.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



City Council Order

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND One Stop Career Center grant FUNDS, AWARDED BY MassHire Department of Career Services.

WHEREAS, the MassHire Department of Career Services, is being petitioned for the issuance of funds to the Office Workforce Development; and

WHEREAS, the funds in the amount of EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY CENTS (**\$860,169.70**) would fund comprehensive career services and resources to unemployed job seekers such as reviewing job postings, career counseling and job coaching, education/skills training, and job placement assistance. Therefore be it

ORDERED: that the Mayor, acting on behalf of the City of Boston be, and hereby is authorized, pursuant to section 53A of chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to accept and expend the MassHire Department of Career Services, One Stop Career Center grant award not to exceed the amount of EIGHT HUNDRED SIXTY THOUSAND ONE HUNDRED SIXTY-NINE DOLLARS AND SEVENTY CENTS (**\$860,169.70**).

Docket #

**In City Council
Passed**

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved

I hereby certify that
the foregoing, if passed in
the above form, will be in
accordance with law.

by Adam Cederbaum

Adam Cederbaum
Corporation Counsel



City Of Boston • Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

01-06-2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (**\$593,750.00**) in the form of a grant, the FY25 Hazmat Earmark grant, awarded by Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department.

The grant would fund the needs of the hazardous materials response teams, as specified in line item 8324-0000 and 8324-0050 of the FY25 General Appropriations Act.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order so that the City of Boston may accept the funds expeditiously and expend them upon award for the purposes for which they are granted.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



City Council Order

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND the FY25 Hazmat Earmark grant FUNDS, AWARDED BY Massachusetts Department of Fire Services.

WHEREAS, the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, is being petitioned for the issuance of funds to the Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the funds in the amount of FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (**\$593,750.00**) would fund the needs of the hazardous materials response teams, as specified in line item 8324-0000 and 8324-0050 of the FY25 General Appropriations Act. Therefore be it

ORDERED: that the Mayor, acting on behalf of the City of Boston be, and hereby is authorized, pursuant to section 53A of chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to accept and expend the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services, the FY25 Hazmat Earmark grant award not to exceed the amount of FIVE HUNDRED NINETY-THREE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FIFTY DOLLARS (**\$593,750.00**).

Docket #

In City Council
Passed

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved _____

I hereby certify that
the foregoing, if passed in
the above form, will be in
accordance with law.

by Adam Cederbaum

Adam Cederbaum
Corporation Counsel



**City Of Boston • Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu**

01-06-2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of THREE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-SIX DOLLARS (**\$395,746.00**) in the form of a grant, the FY24 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant, awarded by United States Department Of Justice to be administered by the Police Department.

The grant would fund a Domestic Violence Management Analyst at the Family Justice Center, a Hub & Center Of Responsibility Coordinator, and a Technology Coordinator for multiple data collection, reporting and records management systems.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order so that the City of Boston may accept the funds expeditiously and expend them upon award for the purposes for which they are granted.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



City Council Order

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND the FY24 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant FUNDS, AWARDED BY United States Department Of Justice.

WHEREAS, the United States Department Of Justice, is being petitioned for the issuance of funds to the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the funds in the amount of THREE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-SIX DOLLARS (**\$395,746.00**) would fund a Domestic Violence Management Analyst at the Family Justice Center, a Hub & Center Of Responsibility Coordinator, and a Technology Coordinator for multiple data collection, reporting and records management systems. Therefore be it

ORDERED: that the Mayor, acting on behalf of the City of Boston be, and hereby is authorized, pursuant to section 53A of chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to accept and expend the United States Department Of Justice, the FY24 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant award not to exceed the amount of THREE HUNDRED NINETY-FIVE THOUSAND SEVEN HUNDRED FORTY-SIX DOLLARS (**\$395,746.00**).

Docket # _____

**In City Council
Passed** _____

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved _____

I hereby certify that
the foregoing, if passed in
the above form, will be in
accordance with law.

by *Adam Cederbaum*

Adam Cederbaum
Corporation Counsel



**City Of Boston • Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu**

01-06-2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (**\$150,000.00**) in the form of a grant, FY22 Covid-19 SA/DV Trust Fund, awarded by MA Department of Public Health to be administered by the Police Department.

The grant would fund two full-time Domestic Violence advocates who will work with social service agency partners at the BPHC Family Justice Center.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order so that the City of Boston may accept the funds expeditiously and expend them upon award for the purposes for which they are granted.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



City Council Order

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND FY22 Covid-19 SA/DV Trust Fund FUNDS, AWARDED BY MA Department of Public Health.

WHEREAS, the MA Department of Public Health, is being petitioned for the issuance of funds to the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the funds in the amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (**\$150,000.00**) would fund two full-time Domestic Violence advocates who will work with social service agency partners at the BPHC Family Justice Center. Therefore be it

ORDERED: that the Mayor, acting on behalf of the City of Boston be, and hereby is authorized, pursuant to section 53A of chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to accept and expend the MA Department of Public Health, FY22 Covid-19 SA/DV Trust Fund award not to exceed the amount of ONE HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND DOLLARS (**\$150,000.00**).

Docket # _____

**In City Council
Passed** _____

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved _____

I hereby certify that
the foregoing, if passed in
the above form, will be in
accordance with law.

by Adam Cederbaum

Adam Cederbaum
Corporation Counsel



City Of Boston • Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

01-06-2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS **(\$36,638.00)** in the form of a grant, FY23 MassTrails Grant, awarded by MA Department of Conservation and Recreation to be administered by the Transportation.

The grant would fund the enhancement of trails and trail access in the Dorchester Community.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order so that the City of Boston may accept the funds expeditiously and expend them upon award for the purposes for which they are granted.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



City Council Order

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND FY23 MassTrails Grant FUNDS, AWARDED BY MA Department of Conservation and Recreation.

WHEREAS, the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, is being petitioned for the issuance of funds to the Transportation; and

WHEREAS, the funds in the amount of THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (**\$36,638.00**) would fund the enhancement of trails and trail access in the Dorchester Community. Therefore be it

ORDERED: that the Mayor, acting on behalf of the City of Boston be, and hereby is authorized, pursuant to section 53A of chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to accept and expend the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation, FY23 MassTrails Grant award not to exceed the amount of THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND SIX HUNDRED THIRTY-EIGHT DOLLARS (**\$36,638.00**).

Docket #

**In City Council
Passed**

City Clerk

Mayor

Approved

I hereby certify that
the foregoing, if passed in
the above form, will be in
accordance with law.
by Adam Cederbaum
Adam Cederbaum
Corporation Counsel



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

January 6, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend an in-kind donation of a Vectra Fitness Cable Multi Station Weight Machine, valued at \$12,599, donated by Fitness Equipment Service of New England.

The purpose of this donation is to enhance the fitness programs and facilities at the BCYF Roslindale Center for the benefit of the Roslindale neighborhood.

I urge your Honorable Body to pass this order as expeditiously as possible, so that the City may receive and expend the donation for the purpose for which it was awarded.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND THE DONATION OF A VECTRA FITNESS CABLE MULTI-STATION WEIGHT MACHINE FROM FITNESS EQUIPMENT SERVICE OF NEW ENGLAND IN SUPPORT OF THE BOSTON CENTERS FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES ROSLINDALE COMMUNITY CENTER.

ORDERED: That the City of Boston, acting by and through the Boston Centers for Youth and Families, be, and hereby is, authorized, in accordance with Section 53A½ of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to accept and expend a donation from Fitness Equipment Service of New England of a Vectra Fitness Cable Multi-Station Weight Machine, valued at twelve thousand five hundred ninety-nine dollars (\$12,599), to support the Boston Centers for Youth and Families Roslindale Community Center.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**

BY _____

**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL**

Amw



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

January 6, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend an in-kind donation of 200 rakes donated by Northeastern University's Department of City and Community Engagement.

The purpose of this donation is to be used during the "Love Your Block" program, organized by the Community Engagement Cabinet, which organizes residents to do a cleanup in their neighborhood.

I urge your Honorable Body to pass this order as expeditiously as possible, so that the City may receive and expend the donation for the purpose for which it was awarded.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND THE DONATION OF 200 RAKES FROM NORTHEASTERN UNIVERSITY FOR USE DURING THE "LOVE YOUR BLOCK" NEIGHBORHOOD CLEAN UPS.

ORDERED: That the City of Boston, acting by and through the Community Engagement Cabinet, be, and hereby is, authorized, in accordance with Section 53A½ of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to accept and expend a donation from Northeastern University's Department of City and Community Engagement in the form of 200 rakes for the purpose of usage during the "Love Your Block" neighborhood clean ups.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**

BY _____

ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL *Kmw*



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
MICHELLE WU

January 6, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval an Order to declare as surplus City-owned computers that are no longer of use to City employees. Once the Department of Innovation and Technology determines that a City-owned computer has reached the end of its useful life and has little to no resale value, the Department wishes to donate the surplus computers to a 501(c)(3) charitable organization, pursuant to M.G.L. Ch. 30B § 15.

The computers would be sanitized by the Department of Innovation and Technology in accordance with industry standards to remove any City data prior to donation. The computers would then be refurbished by a charitable organization for future use by Boston residents to close the digital divide.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order to declare surplus these City-owned computers at the end of their useful life and authorize donation of the surplus computers to charitable organizations for redistribution into the Boston community.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER DECLARING CITY-OWNED LAPTOPS NO LONGER SUITABLE FOR EMPLOYEE USE AS SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING THE DEPARTMENT OF INNOVATION AND TECHNOLOGY TO DONATE SURPLUS LAPTOPS TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.

ORDERED: That the City-owned laptops no longer suitable for employee use are hereby found to be surplus under M.G.L. Chapter 30B and are authorized to be donated by the Department of Innovation and Technology to charitable organizations, as authorized by M.G.L. Ch. 30B § 15.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**

BY _____

**ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL**

Kmw



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

January 6, 2025

The Honorable Alex Geourntas
Office of the City Clerk
1 City Hall Plaza
Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval an Order regarding the appointment of J. Andres Bernal of 32 Tappan Street, Roslindale, MA 02131, as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeal for a term expiring July 1, 2027, provided that members may continue to serve until a replacement member is appointed. I am appointing J. Andres Bernal pursuant to the authority vested in me by Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended by Chapter 461 of the Acts of 1993, as amended by Chapter 373 of the Acts of 2018, as amended by Chapter 365 of the Acts of 2020, and subject to your confirmation. The Boston Society of Architects nominated J. Andres Bernal to serve as an Alternate Member.

I urge your Honorable Body to act favorably on the appointment of J. Andres Bernal as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeal. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER CONFIRMING THE RE-APPOINTMENT OF J. ANDRES BERNAL TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEAL.

ORDERED: That, pursuant to Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended by Chapter 461 of the Acts of 1993, as amended by Chapter 373 of the Acts of 2018, as amended by Chapter 365 of the Acts of 2020, the appointment of J. Andres Bernal of 32 Tappan Street, Roslindale, Massachusetts 02131 as an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeal, for a term expiring on July 1, 2027, be, and hereby is, confirmed.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**

BY



ADAM CEDERBAUM
CORPORATION COUNSEL

Kmw



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

December 23, 2024

The Honorable Alex Geourntas
Office of the City Clerk
1 City Hall Plaza
Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Clerk:

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by Section 4 of Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991, I hereby re-appoint the following Member to the Boston School Committee , effective January 6, 2025:

Michael O'Neill of 14 Franklin Street, Unit #2, Charlestown, MA 02129

This Member will serve a term expiring on January 2, 2029.

Thank you for your attention on this matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

January 6, 2025

The Honorable Alex Geourntas
Office of the City Clerk
1 City Hall Plaza
Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mr. Clerk,

Pursuant to the authority vested in me by City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter 7, 7.4.1, I hereby appoint Sandra Kautz of 408 Poplar Street, Boston, MA 02131, as an Associate Commissioner of the Parks and Recreation Commission effective immediately.

This Associate Commissioner will serve a term expiring on December 31, 2027, provided that members may continue to serve until a replacement member is appointed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

January 6, 2025

TO THE CITY COUNCIL,

Submitted herewith for your consideration, please find the designation Boston City Hall, Boston, MA.

The foregoing designation was approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission on December 10, 2024 and having been presented to the Mayor was returned signed on December 12, 2024.

In accordance with the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended, if not acted upon within thirty days (February 7, 2025), the designation shall be deemed as if approved.

Respectfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Alex Geourntas".

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

cc Murry G. Miller, Director, Office of Historic Preservation
Boston Landmarks Commission



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

RECEIVED FROM THE CITY CLERK FOR PRESENTATION TO THE
MAYOR, VIZ:

Designation as a Landmark - Petition #224.07 – Boston City Hall.

**VOTE OF DESIGNATION BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION**


PROPERTY: Boston City Hall, 1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA

STANDARDS AND CRITERIA TO BE APPLIED:

As described in the section titled: "2.0 Standards and Criteria," included in the study report for the subject property.

APPROVED BY THE BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION:


Date approved: 12/10/2024

Attest: 
(Secretary to the Commission)

PRESENTED TO THE MAYOR:

DEC 12 2024
(Date)

APPROVED BY THE MAYOR:

Date approved: 12/12/24
Signature: 
(Mayor)

PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL:

JAN - 8 2025
(Date)

APPROVED BY CITY COUNCIL:

Date approved: _____
Signature: _____
(City Clerk)

(OR) DEEMED IN EFFECT WITH NO ACTION BY CITY COUNCIL:

Date: _____
Signature: _____
(City Clerk)



Alex Geourntas
City Clerk, City of Boston
Boston City Hall - Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

December 11, 2024

RE: Petition #224.07 – Boston City Hall

Dear Mr. Geourntas,

On December 10, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate Boston City Hall as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended. The boundaries of the designation include the exterior envelope of the building and select interior spaces.

According to the Landmarks Commission's statute, a designation approved by the Commission is presented to the Mayor for signing. If the Mayor disapproves the designation, they file the designation form with the City Clerk with objections noted in writing. If no mayoral action is taken on a designation, it is deemed approved by the Mayor after fifteen days.

The statute states that within thirty days following mayoral approval, the City Council can override a designation by a two-thirds vote. In the absence of City Council action, the designation is approved after the thirty-first day.

I appreciate your supervision of this approval process. Please call me at (617) 918-4273 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Alexa Pinard
Interim Executive Director
Boston Landmarks Commission



The Honorable Michelle Wu
Mayor of the City of Boston
Boston City Hall
Boston, MA 02201

December 11, 2024

RE: Petition #224.07 - Boston City Hall

Dear Mayor Wu:

On December 10, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission unanimously voted to designate Boston City Hall as a Landmark under the provisions of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended. The boundaries of the designation include the exterior envelope of the building and select interior spaces.

As the headquarters for the municipal government of the City of Boston, Boston City Hall represents the City's commitment to democratic governance and civic engagement. Completed in 1968, the Brutalist building was designed by Kallmann McKinnell and Knowles in response to an open architectural competition initiated by the Boston Redevelopment Authority in 1961. The design was intended to foster transparency and accessibility, with the aim of bringing government closer to the people. While popular opinion has not always looked favorably on the building, Boston City Hall is widely recognized as a highly architecturally significant example of Brutalist architecture. The concrete building presented a significant departure from the traditional brick and brownstone materials associated with Boston's evolution, and its image has become an iconic part of the city's cultural identity. The concept of grouping civic and governmental buildings together in a pedestrian-friendly environment influenced subsequent urban design approaches in other cities. Overall, Boston City Hall holds significance as an architectural and cultural icon, a symbol of civic identity, a public space for gatherings, and a catalyst for urban planning discussions.

Boston City Hall has faced criticism and calls for demolition because of its architectural style and perceived functional shortcomings. However, City Hall also has many dedicated supporters who appreciate its historical significance and architectural merit and who have called for the building's designation as a Landmark. In recent years, efforts have been made to preserve and adapt City Hall for future use while addressing its functional limitations. In 2017, the Getty Foundation provided significant support for the development of a Conservation Management Plan for the building. The Boston City Hall Conservation Management Plan (CMP) was completed in January 2021. Recognizing that City Hall is a "working building" subject to changes in use and programmatic requirements as the municipal government evolves, the CMP's intent is to help guide the ongoing maintenance



City of Boston
Historic Preservation



City of Boston
Mayor Michelle Wu

and management of the building by identifying areas of low, medium, and high significance, as well as providing recommendations for treatment based on that hierarchy.

If City Hall is designated as a Landmark, any work in designated areas will need to be reviewed and approved by the Boston Landmarks Commission. Thus, designating the Boston City Hall as a Landmark would align with the CMP's recommendations for Standards and Criteria to guide future changes to the property in order to protect its integrity and character.

Design review by the Commission is not intended to preclude necessary changes from being made to ensure that City Hall will continue to evolve to meet the needs of its users, but it will provide oversight to ensure that they are carried out in an appropriate manner with respect to the historic and architectural significance of the building. Upon the designation taking effect, the Standards and Criteria in this report will serve as guidelines for the Commission's review of proposed changes to the property, with the goal of protecting the historic integrity of the landmark and its setting. The designation would not regulate use nor restrict accessibility to the public.

The Boston Landmarks Commission asks that you give full consideration to the designation of Boston City Hall as a Boston Landmark.

Please don't hesitate to call me at (617) 918-4273 if you have any questions.

Best Regards,



Alexa Pinard
Interim Executive Director
Boston Landmarks Commission

**VOTE OF DESIGNATION BY THE
BOSTON LANDMARKS COMMISSION**

PROPERTY: Boston City Hall, 1 City Hall Square, Boston, MA

VOTED: That on December 10, 2024, the Boston Landmarks Commission designates Boston City Hall at 1 City Hall Square as a Boston Landmark under Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, as amended.

VOTING IN FAVOR:

John Amodeo	Richard Henderson	Justine Orlando
David Berarducci	Lindsey Mac Jones	Fadi Samaha
Jeffrey Gonyeau	Felicia Jacques	Brad Walker

VOTING IN OPPOSITION:

None.

GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE SITE:

Boston City Hall is a striking example of Brutalist (also known as Heroic) architecture, located in the heart of Boston, Massachusetts. Designed by architects Gerhard Kallmann, Michael McKinnell, and Edward Knowles, the building was completed in late 1968. It is situated prominently on a plot of land shaped like a parallelogram at Government Center with the east elevation running along Congress Street.

Kallmann McKinnell and Knowles created a tripartite vertical arrangement for the building, a traditional architectural organization but expressed here in a modern interpretation that resembles an inverted pyramid. From the exterior, the forms, organization, and material selection help identify the general functions that take place in the building. The brick mound rising from City Hall Plaza contains public-facing transactional services; the middle zone uses monumental columns and ceremonial spaces identified by large, projecting, cast-in-place hoods to symbolize the mayor and City Council as leaders of government; the crown composed of repeating windows and precast, projecting fins (simplified paired brackets) extending from the sixth through ninth floors provide a vertical rhythm that represents the bureaucratic office levels. The north end of the east elevation along Congress Street features a brick-clad terraced element that both emphasizes the elevating of the building from the ground level and secures the transactional functions behind a solid mass that is lit from skylights above the terraces.

Boston City Hall is widely recognized as a highly architecturally significant example of Brutalist architecture. The concrete building presented a significant departure from the traditional brick and brownstone materials associated with Boston's evolution, and its image has become an iconic part of the city's cultural identity. The concept of grouping civic and governmental buildings together in a pedestrian-friendly environment influenced subsequent urban design approaches in other cities. Overall, Boston City Hall holds significance as an architectural and cultural icon, a symbol of civic identity, a public space for gatherings, and a catalyst for urban planning discussions.

GENERAL BOUNDARIES OF THE SITE:

City Hall is located at 1 City Hall Square, parcel number 0302615000.

The boundaries of the designation include the exterior envelope of the building and select interior spaces. These spaces are described and shown in diagrams in Section 2.2. of the study report, "Extents of the Designation."

December 31, 2024

Alex Geourntas
City of Boston City Clerk
1 City Hall Square
Room 601
Boston, MA 02201-2014

Boston City Clerk Geourntas:

Pursuant to the Boston Trust Act, below please find statistical information on civil immigration detainer requests made by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to the Boston Police Department in 2024. Civil immigration detainer requests are received via facsimile (fax) and the Department does not maintain a separate database of requests received to ensure continued compliance with the Boston Trust Act. Information reported below is based on requests received by the Department's eleven police districts and reported to the Office of the Police Commissioner per Special Order 21-63.

Please accept this annual report for calendar year 2024 per the requirements of the Trust Act:

- a) A statistical breakdown of the total number of civil immigration detainer requests lodged with the City's law enforcement officials, organized by reason(s) given for the request;

Fifteen civil immigration detainer requests were lodged with the BPD during calendar year 2024. The reason given for all was: "DHS has determined that probable cause exists that the subject is a removable alien."

The First request went to District B3 on January 3, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Second request went to District B3 on January 23, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Third request went to District E13 on February 17, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Fourth request went to District B3 on February 29, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Fifth request went to District E13 on March 1, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Sixth request went to District B3 on April 3, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Seventh request went to District B3 on April 5, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Eighth request went to District B3 April 23, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Ninth request went to District C11 on April 29, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Tenth request went to District C11 July 23, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Eleventh request went to District C11 on July 28, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Twelfth request went to District C11 on September 11, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Thirteenth request went to District C11 on November 17, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Fourteenth request went to District C11 on December 9, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

The Fifteenth request went to District C11 on December 23, 2024. It was not acted upon per the Boston Trust Act.

- b) A statistical breakdown of the total number of individuals that City law enforcement detained pursuant to Section 2, organized by the reason(s) supporting the detention;

Zero individuals were detained by the BPD pursuant to Section 2.

- c) Total number of individuals transferred to ICE custody;

Zero individuals were transferred to ICE custody.

- d) Total cost reimbursements received from the federal government pursuant to Section 2, organized by individual case.

Zero cost reimbursements were received from the federal government pursuant to Section 2.

The Boston Police Department remains committed to complying with the Boston Trust Act and to building and strengthening relationships and trust with all our communities. Boston's immigrant communities should feel safe in reporting crime and quality of life issues to the Department and in proactively engaging with all members of the Boston Police Department.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael A. Cox". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Michael" being the most prominent.

Michael A. Cox
Police Commissioner



Boston Retirement System

BOARD MEMBERS
Daniel J. Greene, Chair
Thomas V.J. Jackson
Michael D. O'Reilly
Maureen A. Joyce
Karen T. Cross

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Timothy J. Smyth, Esquire

VIA EMAIL (publicnotice@boston.gov)

January 3, 2025

Alex Geourntas, Boston City Clerk
One City Hall Square
Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

**RE: SPECIAL ELECTION SCHEDULE FOR VACANT RETIREMENT
BOARD SEAT**

Dear Clerk Geourntas:

For your records, enclosed please find an election schedule relative to the upcoming special election for a vacated elected member seat on the Boston Retirement Board. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,
BOSTON RETIREMENT BOARD

By: 

TIMOTHY J. SMYTH, ESQUIRE
Executive Officer

cc: William T. Keefe, Executive Director PERAC

Attachment.

TO: TRUSTEES
FROM: TIMOTHY J. SMYTH, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
DATE: JANUARY 3, 2025
RE: SPECIAL BOARD ELECTION OF APRIL 11, 2025

A special board election is required to fill the remainder of the vacant term, which expires 09/30/2026. The following are deadlines for the election:

- 01/10/2025 – blast email of notice of election to each active, inactive and retired member of the system (not beneficiaries) through Vitech.
- 01/10/2025 – notice of election mailed to each retired member and last known address of each inactive member, as well as posting with the Office of Human Resources for each respective employer (City of Boston, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Housing Authority and Boston Water & Sewer Commission) and the Boston City Clerk for active members per 840 CMR 7.03(2).
- 01/10/2025 by 5:00 p.m. – nomination papers made available in Room 816 of Boston City Hall.
- 02/10/2025 by 5:00 p.m. – nomination papers must be filed with the Election Officer.
- 02/17/2025 by 5:00 p.m. – withdrawal of candidacy or objection to nomination of a candidate must be filed with the Election Officer by email: timothy.smyth@boston.gov.
- 02/18/2025 at 10:00 a.m. – drawing for ballot position and receipt of candidate biography (no more than 60 words).
- 03/11/2025 – ballots mailed to eligible voters. Eligible voters may vote either by mail or electronic portal provided by our election vendor. No ballots will be accepted in-hand at a polling place.
- 04/11/2025 – election date. Any ballots received after 5:00 p.m. shall not be tabulated.

END.

3-13-25
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
RECEIVED



Boston Retirement System

December 19, 2024

BOARD MEMBERS
Daniel J. Greene, Chair
Thomas V.J. Jackson
Michael D. O'Reilly
Maureen A. Joyce
Karen T. Cross

EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Timothy J. Smyth, Esquire

Alex G. Geourntas
Boston City Clerk
Boston City Hall
Room 601
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Clerk Geourntas:

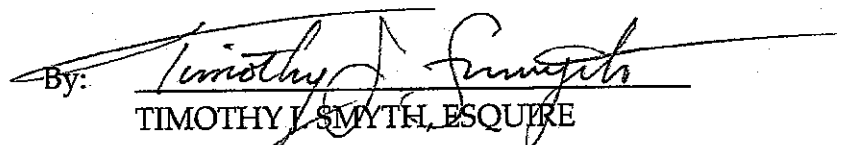
Please be advised that Daniel J. Greene has resigned, effective 12/18/2024, as the Mayoral Appointee to the Boston Retirement Board. We shall notify you and PERAC once Mayor Wu appoints a successor.

Also, Michael D. O'Reilly has resigned, effective 12/18/2024, as an Elected Member of the Boston Retirement Board. Mr. O'Reilly's vacancy shall be filled by way of election pursuant to G.L. c. 32, §20(4) and 840 CMR 7.13. The newly elected board member shall serve the unexpired portion of Mr. O'Reilly's term ending on 09/30/2026.

Finally, we note that at the duly noticed Board meeting of 12/18/2024, Thomas V.J. Jackson was voted to be Chairman of the Boston Retirement Board. Mr. Jackson serves the Board as its Fifth Member.

Thank you for your customary assistance in these matters. Please let me know if you require additional information.

Respectfully submitted,
BOSTON RETIREMENT SYSTEM

By: 
TIMOTHY J. SMYTH, ESQUIRE
Executive Officer

Attachments.

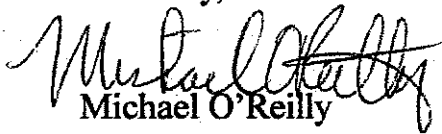
cc: Honorable Michelle Wu, City of Boston Mayor
Ashley Groffenberger, City of Boston Chief Financial Officer
William Keefe, PERAC Executive Director

December 18, 2024

Dear Mr. Smyth

Please accept this letter as my formal resignation from the Boston Retirement System. My resignation will become effective immediately following the adjournment of the December 18, 2024 meeting of the Boston Retirement System.

Sincerely,


Michael O'Reilly

RECEIVED
DEC 18 2024
BY: T. Smyth



Timothy Smyth <timothy.smyth@boston.gov>

Trustee Resignation - Daniel Greene

1 message

dannygreene@comcast.net <dannygreene@comcast.net>
To: Timothy Smyth <timothy.smyth@boston.gov>

Wed, Dec 18, 2024 at 9:35 AM

Mr Smyth:

I resign as Board Member of the BRS.

Thanks,

Danny Greene

Retirement Board Change Form

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name of Retirement Board:

Boston

Your Name:

Timothy J. Smyth, Executive Director

Your Telephone Number:

(617) 635-2603

CONTACT INFORMATION

New Address:

Change Effective As Of:

New Telephone Number:

Change Effective As Of:

New Fax Number:

Change Effective As Of:

New Web Address:

Change Effective As Of:

INCOMING BOARD MEMBER 1*

Name:

TBD / Mayoral Appointment

Term Dates:

03/13/2013 to 12/18/2024

E-mail Address:

Home Address:

resignation effective 12/18/2024

Status:

Ex-Officio Member

Appointed Member

Elected Member

Fifth Member

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER 1

Name:

Greene, Daniel J.

INCOMING BOARD MEMBER 2*

Name:

TBD / Election 840 CMR 7.13

Term Dates:

10/01/2023 to 09/30/2026

E-mail Address:

Home Address:

resignation effective 12/18/2024

Status:

Ex-Officio Member

Appointed Member

Elected Member

Fifth Member

OUTGOING BOARD MEMBER 2

Name:

O'Reilly, Michael D.

INCOMING STAFF MEMBER

Name:

E-mail Address:

Title:

Change Effective As Of:

OUTGOING STAFF MEMBER

Name:

EXISTING MEMBER AND STAFF CHANGES

Name Change:

(Previous Name)

(New Name)

E-mail Address Change:

(Name)

(New E-mail Address)

New Board Chairman:

*Please forward your election results to PERAC'S Executive Director, Bill Keefe



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
PUBLIC EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT ADMINISTRATION COMMISSION
WEB | WWW.MASS.GOV/PERAC



Office of the City Clerk

ALEX GEOURNTAS
City Clerk

January 6, 2025

To the City Council

Dear Councilors:

In compliance with the order passed by your Honorable Body December 6, 1976, this is to inform you that the following was filed by the Boston Planning and Development Agency with the City Clerk on December 16, 2024.

“Proposed Minor Modification to the Washington Park Urban Renewal Plan, Project No. Mass. R-24, with respect to Parcel F-5.”

Respectfully,

Alex Geourntas
City Clerk

MF/pmf



December 16, 2024

Alex Geourntas
Boston City Clerk
1 City Hall Square
Boston, MA 02201

Re: Proposed Minor Modification to the Washington Park Urban Renewal Plan, Project No. Mass. R-24, with respect to Parcel F-5

Dear Clerk Geourntas,

In accordance with the policies adopted by the Boston Redevelopment Authority d/b/a the Boston Planning & Development Agency ("BPDA") Board on December 12, 2004 and April 14, 2016, with respect to proposed urban renewal actions of the BPDA, I am hereby notifying the Boston City Clerk that the BPDA proposes to adopt a minor modification to the Washington Park Urban Renewal Plan, with respect to the modification of uses at Parcel F-5, located at 639 Warren Avenue in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood. This minor modification will set the allowable land uses on this parcel to be Residential Uses.

The purpose of the proposed BPDA action is to further facilitate the redevelopment of the Parcel as a residential affordable building, which is currently in use as a parking lot. The BRA proposes to take action on the minor modification on January 16, 2025.

I enclose a copy of the proposed minor modification resolution. If you have any questions about this matter, please do not hesitate to contact Max Houghton, Policy Specialist, at (617)-752-2155. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Kairos Shen,
Acting Director

PLANNING DEPARTMENT

One City Hall Square | Boston, MA 02201 | BostonPlans.org | T 617.722.4300 | F 617.248.1937
Michelle Wu, Mayor | Kairos Shen, Chief of Planning

**RESOLUTION OF THE BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
RE: MINOR MODIFICATION TO THE WASHINGTON PARK URBAN RENEWAL
PLAN, PROJECT NO. MASS. R-24, WITH RESPECT TO PARCEL F-5.**

WHEREAS, the Urban Renewal Plan for the Washington Park Urban Renewal Area, Project No. Mass. R-24, was adopted by the Boston Redevelopment Authority (the "Authority") on January 16, 1963, and approved by the City Council of the City of Boston on February 18, 1963 (said plan, as previously modified, being herein referred to as the "Plan"); and

WHEREAS, Section 1201 of Chapter XII of said Washington Park Urban Renewal Plan entitled: "Modifications" provides that the Urban Renewal Plan may be modified at any time by the Authority without further approval provided that the proposed modifications do not substantially or materially alter or change the Plan; and

WHEREAS, it is the opinion of the Authority that the minor modification with respect to Parcel F-5 is consistent with the objectives of the Washington Park Urban Renewal Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Authority is cognizant of the requirements of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30, Sections 61 through 62H, as amended, and its implementing regulations (collectively "MEPA") with respect to minimizing and preventing damage to the environment; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment to the Plan is necessary to effectuate the redevelopment of Parcel F-5; and

WHEREAS, the proposed amendment to the Plan is a minor change and may be adopted within the discretion of the Authority pursuant to Section 1201 of Chapter XII of said Plan;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BOSTON REDEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY:

1. That, pursuant to Section 1201 of Chapter XII of the Washington Park Urban Renewal Plan, Project No. Mass. R-24 (the "Plan"), the Plan be, and hereby is, modified as follows:

- a) That Map 2 of the Plan, entitled "Proposed Land Use," is hereby modified to reflect the change in use of said Parcel F-5 to "Residential"; and
- b) That Table A in Section 602, entitled "Land Use and Building Requirements" is hereby modified as follows:

Site Designation	Permitted Uses	Minimum Setback	Max. Bldg. Height	Max. FAR	Max. Net Density	Min. Parking Ratio
F-5	Residential	AA	AA	AA	AA	AA

- 2. That the proposed modification is found to be a minor modification which does not substantially or materially alter or change the Plan.
- 3. That it is hereby found and determined pursuant to MEPA that the foregoing modification of the Plan, and any proposed development undertaken pursuant thereto, will not result in significant damage to or impairment of the environment and further, that all practicable and feasible means and measures have been taken and are being utilized to avoid and minimize damage to the environment.
- 4. That all other provisions of the Plan not inconsistent herewith be, and hereby are, continued in full force and effect.
- 5. That the Director be, and hereby is, authorized to proclaim by certificate this minor modification of the Plan, all in accordance with the provisions of the Urban Renewal Handbook, RHM7207.1, Circular dated August, 1974, if applicable.

**REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE, RESILIENCY,
AND PARKS**

**BOSTON RISING: BUILDING A RESILIENT CITY
ON A HILL THROUGH LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION**



**Report to Members of the Boston City Council
January 8th, 2025**

Presented for the Committee by Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Chair

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BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks
Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Chair

January 8, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

As we enter 2025 and the second year of our legislative calendar, the urgency of addressing environmental justice and climate change in Boston has never been more critical. Climate change is the greatest threat humanity faces today, as confirmed by scientific consensus from leading global organizations such as the World Health Organization (WHO) to the Vatican's Pontifical Academy of Sciences under the auspices of the Holy See. Its far-reaching effects—extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and disruptions to food security—pose serious risks to our health, our ecosystems, and the stability of communities worldwide. This challenge demands nothing less than bold, immediate action to protect our future.

As a vibrant, large metropolitan city, Boston must stand firm in its commitment to climate action, especially in the face of potential federal rollbacks of protections for polluting industries and the loss of vital funding for climate resilience projects. In these uncertain times, we must redouble our efforts to advance a climate agenda rooted in equity—one that empowers innovation and builds a strong local workforce to lead the charge. We cannot afford to wait for others to act; Boston must lead the way with solutions that put our communities first.

I want to express gratitude to Mayor Michelle Wu, who in her tenure as both Mayor and Councilor-At-Large, has demonstrated strong leadership in advancing Boston's climate resilience and environmental justice goals. Through various initiatives that include the establishment of the Green New Deal for Boston, she has worked tirelessly to address climate impacts while focusing on improving the city's livability now and for future generations.

I am deeply grateful for the invaluable contributions of our city-wide partners—foundations, non-profits, urban farms, volunteer groups, and youth organizations—who have been instrumental in tackling the environmental challenges facing our neighborhoods. Through countless discussions with leaders in these fields, we've crafted the strategies in this report. Their dedication and expertise illuminate the path forward, guiding us toward a more resilient and sustainable future. Together, we are shaping the next chapter of our city's climate action with shared commitment and passion.

The Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks is unwavering in its commitment to ensuring Boston's climate policies are swift, effective, and equitable. We are determined to dismantle the inequitable systems that perpetuate environmental harm, especially in our most vulnerable communities. Our goal is clear: to keep Boston on a path toward achieving its ambitious climate goals while ensuring that every voice is heard and every community benefits from the transformation ahead. With equity at the heart of our mission, we will continue to work relentlessly, advancing innovative solutions and fostering a workforce that is equipped to build a greener, more sustainable city for future generations. Together, we will rise to this moment and meet the challenges of the climate crisis head-on.

Sincerely,

Gabriela Coletta Zapata, Chair
Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks

I. INTRODUCTION

The Boston City Council, consisting of fifteen standing committees, includes the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, and Parks, which is dedicated to addressing critical environmental issues in the city. In 2024, the Committee led efforts to propose and pass legislation aimed at reducing pollution, improving sustainability, and increasing resilience to climate change.

This report highlights the city's key environmental challenges and the municipal policies in place to tackle them, with a particular focus on recent advancements through action taken by the Administration and the Council. This document provides an in-depth overview of Boston's climate resilience initiatives, key strategic breakthroughs, and ongoing projects across various sectors.

These include efforts such as the creation of the Office of Climate Resilience, food recovery programs, and the standardization of climate science and environmental justice in Boston Public Schools. Additionally, the report presents forward-looking recommendations, such as establishing a Municipal Climate Bank, promoting a just energy transition inclusive of unions, and considering the implications of state and federal policy changes on the city's environmental future.

II. COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

One of the key tasks of the Boston City Council Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency is overseeing, scrutinizing, and passing federal, state, and local grants that fund the City of Boston Environment, Energy and Open Space Cabinet (EEOS). Additionally, the Boston City Council Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency reviewed, examined, and passed various proposals submitted by her honor the Mayor and the Boston City Council body. These include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Order for a hearing regarding implementing coastal resilience strategies for Boston's waterfront. This hearing was sponsored by Councilor Gabriela Coletta Zapata and co-sponsored by Councilor John FitzGerald.
- Order for a hearing to discuss Boston's Walking City Trail, an urban hiking route connecting 27 miles of Boston parks, gardens, urban forests, and streets through 17 Boston neighborhoods. This hearing was sponsored by Councilor Henry Santana and co-sponsored by Councilors Gabriela Coletta Zapata and Benjamin Weber.
- Order for a hearing to discuss ways to equitably fight climate displacement in District Seven. This hearing was sponsored by Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson.
- Order authorizing the Parks and Recreation Commission, on behalf of the City of Boston, to acquire by an eminent domain taking a parcel at 0 Dale Street in Hyde Park adjacent to the Sherrin Woods urban wild, as permanently protected parkland to be managed in coordination with Sherrin Woods, and to use Community Preservation Fund monies appropriated to the Parks and Recreation Department to award damages as determined by the Commission. This order was sponsored by her honor the Mayor Michelle Wu.
- Eleven Million Four Hundred Six Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty-Two Dollar (\$11,406,762.00) grant from the USDA Forest Service Urban and Community Forestry for the creation of an accessible, inclusive and resilient urban forest in Boston and reduce technical and financial barriers to accessing and preserving trees.

- One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) from the United States Department of the Interior under the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) to make capital improvements to the Mary Ellen Welch Greenway in East Boston. The grant will fund improvements to the Greenway, including newly paved pathways, enhanced entrances, new site furnishings, and drainage improvements to address chronic site flooding.
- Two Million Dollar (\$2,000,000.00) grant from the United States Department of the Treasury to fund the Clougherty Pool replacement and bathhouse renovation project.
- One Hundred Thousand Dollar (\$100,000.00) grant, from Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to fund investment in local programs including recycling equipment, organics diversion, outreach and education, pilot programs, school recycling, toxic reduction, and more.
- Five Million Dollar (\$5,000,000.00) grant from the United States Department of the Treasury to fund the repairs and maintenance of aquatic facilities.
- Six Hundred Fifty-Nine Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Dollar (\$659,990.00) grant from the United States Department of Energy to fund State and Local Governments and Tribes, in implementing strategies to reduce energy use, to reduce fossil fuel emissions and to improve energy efficiency.
- Ten Million Dollar (\$10,000,000.00) grant to promote energy efficiency and energy savings to various public buildings and infrastructure projects.
- One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency, to fund resident education on electric cooking and its environmental and health benefits.
- Forty-Five Thousand Dollar (\$45,000.00) grant to fund the acceleration of climate resilience in Boston through the “Building Resilience Through Immersive Education and Training” project.
- One Million Nine Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Eight Hundred Seventy-Two Dollar (\$1,983,872.00) grant from the United States Department of Transportation to fund the Digitizing of Boston’s Curbs via Machine Learning: Promoting Transparency, Workforce Development, and Equitable Green Policy Project.

III. EXISTING REPORTS AND EFFORTS

Boston is facing escalating impacts of climate change. As an urban, coastal city, Boston encounters unique challenges that require a strategic and equitable approach to safeguard its residents and infrastructure. The City of Boston has already taken initial steps of releasing the following reports to address the worsening impacts of climate change, including but not limited to:

- Climate Ready Boston - An initiative designed to prepare Boston for the impacts of climate change, including sea-level rise, extreme heat, and storms. It emphasizes neighborhood-specific strategies for flood protection, climate adaptation, and community resilience, aligning with broader citywide climate goals. Published in 2016 and updated in 2019 as part of an ongoing effort to improve the city’s climate resilience strategies.
- GoBoston 2030 - Boston’s long-term mobility plan that focuses on creating safe, equitable, and sustainable transportation options. The plan includes ambitious goals such as reducing

greenhouse gas emissions from transportation by 50% and increasing access to reliable public transit, biking, and walking. Published in 2017.

- Imagine Boston 2030 - Boston's first citywide master plan in over 50 years, designed to guide growth and development while addressing equity, climate resilience, and housing. It identifies priority areas for investment, including creating resilient waterfronts, enhancing neighborhoods, and fostering innovation districts. Published in 2017.
- 2019 Climate Action Plan - An update to Boston's comprehensive strategy for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and preparing for climate change. It highlights initiatives to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050, improve energy efficiency, expand renewable energy, and increase community engagement in climate solutions. Published in 2019.
- Climate Resilient Design Standards & Guidelines for Engineers and Designers - A technical framework for integrating climate resilience into the design of buildings and infrastructure. It provides tools and standards to ensure new developments can withstand projected climate impacts, such as flooding and extreme weather events, in Boston. Published in 2019.
- Urban Forest Plan - A comprehensive strategy to expand and maintain Boston's tree canopy to improve air quality, reduce heat, and enhance climate resilience. It includes goals for equitable tree distribution across neighborhoods, preserving existing trees, and increasing urban greenery by 2030. Published in 2019.
- Zero Waste Boston toolkits - A set of resources and strategies aimed at reducing waste generation, increasing recycling, and improving composting rates. It includes guidance for residents, businesses, and institutions to support Boston's goal of achieving zero waste by 2050, while fostering a circular economy. Published in 2020.
- Heat Resilience Solutions for Boston - A focused plan to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat in Boston through urban cooling strategies such as expanding green infrastructure, planting more trees, and enhancing public awareness. It emphasizes equitable solutions to protect vulnerable communities most affected by heat waves. Published in 2020.

The City has made significant strides in addressing climate change and enhancing environmental resilience through key legislative initiatives, programmatic efforts, and strategic partnerships, all guided by an equity lens. These actions include but are not limited to:

- Boston Community Choice Electricity Program - This program provides residents and businesses with a cleaner, more sustainable electricity option by allowing them to automatically opt into a community electricity aggregation program. It aims to lower carbon emissions by offering electricity sourced from renewable sources, while also providing residents with savings on their electricity bills.
- Building Energy Reporting and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) 2.0 - BERDO 2.0 is an updated ordinance improving the energy performance of buildings. The new version includes stricter energy use and carbon emissions reduction targets for large buildings. It mandates building owners to report energy use data and take steps to achieve greater energy efficiency, helping to drive Boston toward its carbon neutrality goals.
- Climate Ready Boston and Army Corps Partnership - The partnership between the City of Boston and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers focuses on assessing coastal storm risks through the Coastal Storm Risk Management Feasibility Study. Building on the Climate Ready Boston initiative, the study evaluates flood risks and explores strategies to manage coastal flooding, particularly for Boston's forty-seven-mile coastline. It aims to align city, state, and federal efforts to enhance resilience against storm surges and sea-level rise, with potential federal investment. The study is expected to be completed by 2028.
- Coastal Resilience Project Tracker - The Coastal Resilience Project Tracker is an online tool designed to monitor and track the city's efforts to mitigate the impacts of sea-level rise and

coastal flooding. The tracker helps to coordinate projects focused on improving coastal resilience, ensuring that progress is made in strengthening Boston's waterfront areas against climate risks.

- Community First Partnership - This initiative focuses on promoting environmental justice by ensuring that all communities, especially those disproportionately impacted by climate change, have a seat at the table in decision-making processes. The partnership works to uplift communities in need by providing resources and advocating for equitable climate policies.
- Green Infrastructure Policy Standards - These standards are part of Boston's strategy to use natural systems, such as trees, wetlands, and permeable surfaces, to manage stormwater and reduce the urban heat island effect. The policy supports the installation of green infrastructure, such as rain gardens and green roofs, to improve the city's environmental quality and climate resilience.
- Modernizing the Development Review Process (Article 80) - The City is updating the development review process under Article 80 to ensure that new projects meet environmental sustainability standards. This includes evaluating how projects will impact climate resilience, carbon emissions, and energy efficiency, helping to ensure that Boston's urban development aligns with its sustainability goals.
- PowerCorps - PowerCorps is a workforce development initiative that provides young people with training in green infrastructure, energy efficiency, and environmental stewardship. The program is designed to help empower local youth, especially in underrepresented communities, to gain valuable skills in the growing green economy while simultaneously contributing to Boston's climate action efforts.
- Public-Private Partnerships for Coastal Resilience - The city announced the launch of a project to strengthen coastal resilience in East Boston, focusing on the central Border Street waterfront. This initiative, the first to address coastal flooding across private properties in Boston, will involve designing solutions using both green and gray infrastructure. The project aims to reduce flood risks, improve stormwater management, and enhance waterfront access while prioritizing community engagement and environmental justice. The city has also secured a \$330,500 grant to advance these efforts.
- Tree Protection Ordinance - Boston's new public tree protection ordinance, signed by Mayor Wu, strengthens efforts to preserve the city's urban forest, following recommendations from the Urban Forest Plan. The ordinance mandates the protection of public trees on city-owned properties, including parks, libraries, and schools. It requires a survey of trees before construction and ensures healthy trees are only removed with community involvement. The goal is to improve the urban canopy, enhance resilience to climate change, and promote environmental equity across neighborhoods.
- Wetlands Protection Ordinance - Enacted in January 2020, this ordinance grants the city enhanced authority to safeguard its wetlands and related water resources. These areas are vital for controlling flooding, filtering stormwater runoff, producing oxygen, and mitigating the urban heat island effect. The ordinance empowers the Boston Conservation Commission to regulate activities that may impact wetlands, including removal, filling, dredging, or alteration. It also establishes new Coastal and Inland Flood Resilience Zones, providing additional protections to areas susceptible to flooding.

Boston has restructured various city cabinets and created new climate-related departments, commissions, and positions to effectively carry out its bold climate goals. These efforts are designed to foster collaboration across all levels of government and the private sector, ensuring a holistic approach to sustainability. These include but are not limited to the following:

- Green New Deal Director: Leads efforts to implement Boston's Green New Deal, focusing on sustainability, climate resilience, and economic opportunities in the green sector.

- Chief Resilience Officer: Formerly the Chief of Energy, Environment, and Open Space, this reimagined cabinet position leads on climate action across city departments, fostering community engagement, and ensuring environmental justice, aiming to make Boston more sustainable, equitable, and resilient to climate impacts.
- Conservation Commission: Manages Boston's natural resources, ensuring their protection and sustainable use.
- Office of Food Justice: Focuses on ensuring equitable access to nutritious, affordable food, particularly in communities facing food insecurity.
- GrowBoston: A program supporting urban agriculture and local food production in Boston, aiming to increase food resilience and sustainability.
- Urban Forest Plan and Forestry Division: Focuses on enhancing and maintaining Boston's tree canopy, improving air quality, reducing heat, and addressing environmental equity through more green spaces in underserved neighborhoods.
- Executive Director for Youth Green Jobs: Leads programs designed to provide young people with green jobs and environmental career opportunities, ensuring the next generation plays a pivotal role in addressing the climate crisis.

These advancements showcase Boston's dedication to tackling the escalating climate crisis. This commitment is reflected in the city's adoption of bold, collaborative policies, focused and intentional implementation efforts, and strategic investments in impactful programs. Additionally, expanding the city's staff capacity further strengthens its ability to meet climate challenges head-on.

IV. RECENT STRATEGIC BREAKTHROUGHS

The Office of Climate Resilience

During my tenure as Chair, I have championed the need for urgent action to fortify all forty-seven miles of Boston's coastline and protect Boston from the threat of rising seas due to climate change. The Committee held several hearings and working sessions on this topic with robust participation from colleagues, cabinet members, as well as dozens of waterfront affinity organizations from across the City and academia.

During the discussions, updates were provided on the ongoing Climate Ready Boston initiative, coastal resilience projects, and strategies for accelerating their implementation. The sessions highlighted the importance of collaboration across city departments, state and federal agencies, private landowners, and community groups to develop equitable and sustainable waterfront planning. A key recommendation was to establish a dedicated office or a similar cabinet-level position to oversee coastal resilience projects, coordinate efforts across multiple departments, and liaise with external partners.

In a major win, Boston launched the Office of Climate Resilience in August 2024 with a primary focus on enhancing Boston's resilience to climate-related challenges, including flooding, extreme heat, and rising sea levels, particularly in coastal and vulnerable areas. The office is led by a Director who will coordinate efforts across various city departments, work with local communities, businesses, and experts to implement critical climate resilience projects and safeguard Boston's future. This office is part of a broader commitment to climate action and environmental justice, aiming to make the city more resilient, equitable, and sustainable.

Boston plays a vital role in ensuring the resilience of our coastline. As Chair, my focus is to move beyond a parcel-by-parcel approach, which is inadequate in addressing the urgent threat of coastal flooding. I will continue to work closely with the Office of Climate Resilience to implement nature-based solutions that incorporate both passive and active permeable landscapes. Our next challenge is transitioning from the

assessment phase to active implementation through strategic investments and partnerships. We must collaborate to secure the financial resources needed and engage private, public, and philanthropic partners to fund these initiatives.

Food Access, Recovery, and Acquisition of Food Hub

Climate change profoundly impacts food security, which encompasses the availability, access, utilization, and stability of food for all people. It affects each of these components in various ways, leading to both direct and indirect consequences. This is particularly concerning for environmental justice communities where food insecurity continues to grow despite the tireless efforts of community partners to provide food to residents.

Recently, the Office of Food Justice (OFJ) evolved from the former Office of Food Access to reflect a broader commitment to equity, sustainability, and systemic change in the city's food system. Its new focus is to ensure equitable access to nutritious, affordable, and culturally appropriate food for all residents. It works to address food insecurity through initiatives that support urban agriculture, improve food distribution networks, and strengthen local food systems. OFJ's additional focus is to reduce food waste while fostering resilience against food inequities across Boston neighborhoods.

As Chair, I've introduced an ordinance codifying the Office of Food Justice into Boston's Municipal Code and a potential program addressing food insecurity through a food recovery program. This program would require businesses to donate surplus edible food to community organizations and improve access to healthy food across the city. The Committee held multiple hearings and working sessions on this topic and others that seek to reduce food waste, enhance food security, and promote environmental sustainability while addressing disparities in access to nutritious food.

During these discussions, we learned of various operational barriers for food access organizations largely run on volunteers who feed thousands of Boston residents per week. A major barrier included the need for refrigerated storage space for the dozens of food access organizations and businesses across the City. Lack of access to refrigeration leads to additional food waste and shortens the amount of time inventory is safe to consume for those they serve.

I am extremely proud that Council and OFJ worked together to repurpose federal funding received through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) to acquire a brand new, 27,000 square-foot centralized food distribution hub in Roxbury. This facility, a collaboration with Mass General Brigham and YMCA, will increase the availability of fresh produce and pantry goods to residents in need across the City. The hub features 5,500 square feet of cold storage space, enabling the YMCA and other community organizations to distribute food more efficiently and effectively. This initiative not only addresses immediate food insecurity but also supports local farmers and reduces food waste, aligning with our broader goals of sustainability and resilience.

These initiatives are key to building more resilient, sustainable food systems that can withstand future challenges while improving access to fresh, local produce. It is a priority to create a satellite food hub in East Boston, a federally recognized food desert, with a similar model that provides storage for local organizations while also providing nutritious and affordable foods for residents. My office continues to collaborate with local partners and advocates to ensure that Boston remains at the forefront of food sustainability and environmental justice.

Environmental Justice & Climate Change Curricula in Boston Public Schools

The urgency of climate change underscores the need to prepare Boston’s children for the challenges and opportunities they will face. Despite the absence of climate change topics in Boston Public Schools (BPS) learning standards, promising strides are underway. A hearing order sponsored through this Committee has initiated efforts to develop metrics and resources—including curriculum, professional development, and partnerships—to better equip students and teachers. BPS Superintendent Skipper has committed to piloting a program using the Civic Action Project standards, aligning climate education with civics and advocacy. By investing in students’ understanding of environmental science and justice, Boston can cultivate future leaders prepared for careers in the green and blue economies.

Currently, BPS has a mix of curricula, such as Full Option Science System (FOSS) and Amplify, with varying implementation rates across grade levels. However, significant gaps remain, particularly at the high school level, where only 43.75% of schools are using district-endorsed materials. Efforts to close these gaps include integrating environmental justice into Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM) curricula and using local resources like outdoor classrooms funded through Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER). These initiatives not only foster hands-on learning but also help students connect global challenges to their immediate environment. Collaboration with local nonprofits, such as Eastie Farm, Boston Nature Center and Youth Build, enhances these efforts while addressing the racial and social inequities often central to environmental justice. Moving forward, the focus is on standardizing high-quality climate science education across all grades. This includes leveraging partnerships, updating outdated state frameworks, and providing equitable resources.

Green and Blue Economy Workforce Development:

Boston must expand its workforce development programs focused on decarbonization and marine industry jobs. The success of PowerCorpsBOS, a pilot program in this area, demonstrates the potential for further expansion. In addition, the City should establish workforce development initiatives targeting the "New Blue Economy," which includes jobs in aquaculture, fishing, offshore wind, maritime transportation, tourism, marine biotech, environmental protection, marine education, and research.

The recent announcement of Boston's Workforce Climate Resilience Task Force signals the City's commitment to advancing these efforts. This program should specifically target Boston Public School students, equipping them with the skills necessary to meet the growing demand for trained climate workers, particularly those with expertise in STEM, technology, climate science, and marine sciences. Integrating an environmental justice and climate change curriculum into BPS is crucial to ensuring our students are prepared to become the next stewards of the Earth. By doing so, we can ensure that they have access to well-paying green and blue jobs in the future, driving both environmental and economic resilience for Boston.

BERDO 2.0 and the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund:

As Chair of the Committee on Environment, Resiliency, and Parks, I have a dedicated seat on Boston’s Building Emissions Reduction and Disclosure Ordinance (BERDO) Review Board, which works to ensure the equitable implementation of BERDO—Boston's initiative to bring large buildings to net-zero emissions by 2050. BERDO mandates that large existing buildings report their energy usage and carbon emissions while setting targets to reduce emissions over time. These zoning reforms will incentivize the use of renewable energy sources, energy-efficient systems, and low-carbon materials in construction, helping to significantly reduce the city’s carbon emissions.

It is critical to ensure that all building owners, especially those with properties that narrowly exceed the threshold for being classified as large residential buildings, have access to the technical assistance they need to comply with BERDO. This support is essential to dismantling barriers and achieving our climate

goals. By integrating zoning provisions that complement BERDO's objectives, we can create an environment where energy-efficient and sustainable building practices are not just encouraged, but made more accessible, promoting long-term sustainability across the city.

Additionally, payments into the Equitable Emissions Investment Fund will prove essential amidst potential loss of federal or state funding for decarbonization efforts. The fund supports projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions while prioritizing equity and benefiting environmental justice communities. The fund reinvests proceeds from building emissions standards and focuses on initiatives like renewable energy, energy efficiency, and green infrastructure. More importantly, it emphasizes collaboration with local organizations to ensure benefits for historically burdened populations and environmental justice communities.

V. POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

As a coastal city on the frontlines of climate change, Boston must act boldly to safeguard its future. This means generating revenue for capital resilience projects through tools like a climate bank or green bonds and holding our largest carbon polluters accountable. A just transition must prioritize clean energy solutions like electrification and geothermal systems while collaborating with labor leaders to secure green jobs. Embedding additional climate action in zoning regulations and integrating climate goals with sustainable mobility will further reduce emissions and enhance resilience. These steps are vital to protect residents, advance equity, and position Boston as a leader in combating the climate crisis. The Committee respectfully recommends the following policy priorities for Council and administration consideration.

Municipal Climate Bank and Green Bonds

In 2024, I introduced a hearing order recommending the exploration of a municipal climate bank to mobilize resources for climate resilience and sustainability projects. A municipal climate bank would serve as a financial institution dedicated to funding initiatives such as renewable energy, green infrastructure, energy efficiency upgrades, and sustainable transportation, all while prioritizing equity and community involvement. By leveraging public and private investments, the bank would attract additional funding from federal grants, private investors, and philanthropic organizations, stimulating local economies and creating green jobs.

Estimates suggest it will cost Boston over \$4 billion to fortify its forty-seven-mile coastline against sea-level rise and storm surge through a mix of nature-based and traditional infrastructure solutions. A municipal climate bank would play a critical role in addressing these challenges by mobilizing resources, fostering sustainable development, and combating climate change effectively. The climate bank would provide funding through grants, loans, or investment opportunities for projects aimed at reducing greenhouse gas emissions, enhancing resilience to climate impacts, and promoting renewable energy. It would prioritize equitable access to funding, ensuring marginalized communities benefit from climate initiatives and have a voice in decision-making processes.

To secure sustainable financing for these initiatives, Boston could also utilize mechanisms like green bonds, which would attract dedicated capital for large-scale climate projects while offering investors opportunities to support environmentally sustainable development. Additionally, robust governance and oversight frameworks would ensure accountability and alignment with the city's broader climate action and sustainability goals. By advancing this initiative, Boston can address the urgent \$4 billion challenge of climate resilience, promote economic growth, and emerge as a leader in equitable climate action. This approach aligns with the city's commitment to protecting its coastline, fostering economic opportunity, and achieving environmental sustainability.

Just Transition to Clean Energy

Massachusetts has a mandate to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050, which requires significant reductions in carbon emissions from buildings, responsible for one-third of all climate-damaging emissions. A critical component of this transition is moving away from carbon-based combustible fuels, such as natural gas, which is 95% methane. While this shift is necessary to meet our climate goals, it is equally important for Boston to ensure that gas industry workers are included in this process, so they are not left behind as we transition to clean energy.

The "Just Transition" framework is key to this process, ensuring that those who have been employed in the fossil fuel industry are not left behind but are supported through retraining, workforce development programs, and the creation of sustainable, well-paying green jobs. By engaging workers in this transition, we can ensure that the shift to clean energy is equitable, inclusive, and just. It is essential that we include these workers at every stage of the process—whether in policy discussions, job retraining initiatives, or the creation of new job pathways—so that the future of Boston’s energy economy is one that benefits both the environment and our working communities.

At the state level, there is pending legislation that aims to ensure that gas workers are not displaced but instead have access to new opportunities as the fossil fuel industry contracts and is replaced by green jobs. Boston, as a union city, must prioritize the inclusion of workers in these decisions, providing them with the necessary training, support, and job opportunities to ensure they can successfully transition into the green economy.

Advancing Electrification and Geothermal

Boston has made substantial progress in reducing fossil fuel dependence, advancing electrification, and exploring innovative energy solutions like geothermal systems, all vital steps toward its goal of achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. The city is also piloting geothermal micro-districts, leveraging underground heat for sustainable heating and cooling to reduce reliance on natural gas. Updated zoning policies and stricter energy codes are further aligning new developments with climate goals, encouraging the use of renewable energy systems and energy-efficient designs. By combining these efforts with investments in renewable energy infrastructure and community-focused programs, Boston is paving the way for a cleaner, more sustainable future.

To build on this foundation and meet its 2050 carbon neutrality goals, Boston must scale electrification across all sectors, expand geothermal energy projects, and retrofit older buildings for energy efficiency. Leveraging federal and state funding, such as through the Inflation Reduction Act, can provide the resources needed to accelerate these efforts. Equally important is engaging with communities to ensure equity in the transition and prioritize marginalized groups, ensuring that Boston remains a leader in combating climate change while fostering environmental and economic resilience.

Additional Resilient Zoning Standards and Mitigation

Prioritizing sustainability, incorporating green building standards, and enhancing climate resilience measures in Boston’s zoning regulations are critical to fostering environmentally responsible development and ensuring long-term resilience to climate change.

In 2021, the Coastal Flood Resilience Overlay District (CFROD), or Article 25, was adopted and aims to protect people and structures from the effects of climate change, such as sea level rise and storm surge. The CFROD's goals include promoting flood-resilient design, preventing flood damage, elevating the occupiable space of buildings, and floodproofing areas below flood elevations. Recent efforts by Harbor Towers I and II have illuminated the administrative and legal barriers in the city's approvals process.

Urgent action to retrofit properties to withstand sea-level rise has been met with long periods of review and bureaucratic delays. As Chair, I will work to streamline the approval process for property owners and propose changes that would simplify the permitting process for climate resilience measures, such as flood barriers, green roofs, and permeable surfaces, empowering property owners to proactively protect their buildings from the impacts of flooding and climate change.

One example of how Boston is already fostering climate resilience is the growing trend of rooftop farms. These green roofs not only provide sustainable, local produce but also serve as vital tools for stormwater absorption, reducing the burden on our drainage systems and mitigating the urban heat island effect. I've worked with GrowBoston to advocate for the installation of green roofs or urban greening practices during the development review process, which help reduce carbon emissions, absorb rainwater, and promote biodiversity in the city. In addition, I've supported prioritizing permeable surfaces in developments to help manage stormwater runoff, as well as preserving trees on private properties and encouraging new plantings along public sidewalks to meet our tree canopy goals.

Beyond these strategies, it's crucial to incentivize and provide small grants for retrofits that improve accessibility in flood-prone areas, particularly in Coastal Flood Overlay Districts. It's also essential to standardize and quantify what constitutes proper climate mitigation, as this is a cornerstone of the new Planning Department's efforts. In a recent letter to the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) on development review reform, I emphasized that retrofitting buildings to incorporate green infrastructure can often be more expensive and challenging than integrating these elements from the start. To ensure Boston remains both affordable and resilient, we must prioritize the inclusion of sustainability and climate resilience in building design from the outset, ensuring these features are a standard part of new developments before they are approved by the City.

Reducing Polystyrene Use and Plastic Waste

To advance Boston's commitment to sustainability, we must prioritize a citywide reduction or ban on polystyrene (commonly known as Styrofoam) products. This initiative builds on Boston's successful 2018 ban on single-use plastic bags and aligns with efforts by other towns, states, and nations to combat plastic pollution. Polystyrene is a non-recyclable material that takes over 500 years to decompose, often breaking down into microplastics that infiltrate our ecosystems and bodies. Beyond its environmental toll, polystyrene poses significant health risks, as it can release carcinogenic particles when used to package food and beverages. A ban would signal Boston's leadership in reducing plastic waste and safeguarding public health.

A polystyrene ban also addresses environmental justice concerns. Low-income neighborhoods in Boston are disproportionately affected by the widespread use of this toxic material, as businesses in these areas often rely on inexpensive packaging options. These communities already face higher exposure to pollution, making the elimination of polystyrene a crucial step toward equitable environmental reform. By introducing a ban and providing resources to businesses for transitioning to sustainable alternatives, Boston can mitigate these disparities, reduce pollution, and set an example as a city that prioritizes the health of its residents and the planet. Thank you to Girl Scout Troop 68277 in Dorchester for their advocacy on this important topic including Eleanor P. (17), Calida B. (17), Clare A. (17), Ita B. (16), Gretchen C. (16), and Sabine B. (14).

Integrating Climate Goals with Sustainable Mobility

Linking climate and mobility goals is essential in reducing carbon emissions and creating a sustainable, livable city. Transportation is one of the largest contributors to greenhouse gas emissions, with cars being a major source of pollution. By promoting multi-modal accessibility—where walking, biking, public transit, and other sustainable transportation options are seamlessly integrated—cities can decrease

reliance on cars and reduce their carbon footprint. Investing in accessible and safe infrastructure not only improves mobility but also enhances the quality of life for residents and reduces harmful emissions, which is critical for meeting climate goals.

Boston is already recognized as one of the most walkable cities in the United States, thanks to its compact size, rich history, and well-designed urban infrastructure. Since 2022, I have co-sponsored a hearing supporting the creation of a Boston Walking City Trail. This proposed 27-mile urban hiking route would connect 17 neighborhoods, stretching from the Neponset River Reservation to the Bunker Hill Monument, passing through some of the city's most scenic parks, urban wilds, and residential areas. Along with other transportation options like electric scooters and bikes, this trail could significantly reduce the city's carbon footprint.

However, while Boston has made strides in improving biking and public transit—through initiatives like Go Boston 2030—there is a lack of comprehensive data and plans focused on making the city fully walkable. While Boston has the potential to become a pedestrian-friendly city, many areas remain unsafe or inaccessible for walkers. The City of Boston needs to conduct further research and develop a clear plan to ensure that all streets, particularly in the Downtown region, are fully walkable, ADA-compliant, and safe for pedestrians. This effort would align mobility and climate goals while fostering a healthier, more sustainable urban environment.

Waterfront Business Improvement District

A Business Improvement District (BID) is a privately-led, publicly-sanctioned organization that provides additional services to a defined geographic area. My office has explored this tool as a potential means of securing funding for capital projects to protect both private and public assets from coastal storm surges. BIDs are established at the municipal level and governed by state legislation. Property owners within the district vote to initiate, manage, and finance the BID. This proposed BID would bring together a range of stakeholders, including home and business owners, as well as public entities such as the City of Boston, MassPort, and other city, state, and federal agencies, to support resiliency along our waterfront.

Earlier this year, my office partnered with Northeastern's Policy Capstone to assess property values along District 1's waterfront, develop a property owner presentation, and draft legislation to establish a Boston Waterfront BID. BIDs generate revenue through assessments, or common area fees, levied on property owners and businesses within the district. These funds would be used to implement resilience measures, including both gray infrastructure—such as flood barriers—and green infrastructure—like permeable landscapes—to protect the Boston Harbor.

Flooding and coastal storm surges will impact critical infrastructure and some of our most valuable assets, including schools, businesses, police stations, and emergency service facilities. Proactively protecting these assets is an economic investment, saving millions in potential repair costs and damages. The Waterfront BID would allow Boston to collaborate with both public and private landowners to establish a funding mechanism that supports proactive protection and mitigation efforts against coastal flooding.

VI. LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS FOLLOWING PASSAGE OF THE MASSACHUSETTS CLIMATE BILL

In November 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed into law Massachusetts Bill S.2967, or *An Act promoting a clean energy grid, advancing equity, and protecting ratepayers*. This historic piece of legislation provides municipalities with a valuable framework for advancing clean energy initiatives that can drive local environmental, economic, and equity goals. This legislation aims to promote the

development of clean energy solutions, making energy more affordable, accessible, and sustainable for communities across the state. By leveraging the bill's provisions, municipalities can facilitate the transition away from gas-based heating, expand electric vehicle infrastructure, and create jobs, particularly in the growing green energy sector.

One of the key aspects of the bill is that it also has a strong focus on equity. It mandates an analysis of environmental burdens on low-income and historically marginalized communities when citing new energy infrastructure. Furthermore, the bill places a strong emphasis on workforce development, enabling local governments to build job opportunities in the clean energy sector. This will help foster economic growth while providing workers with the skills and support needed for a successful transition to a green economy.

Municipalities now have a powerful tool in Bill S.2967 to accelerate the adoption of clean energy, promote energy equity, reduce reliance on fossil fuels, and ensure a just transition for all communities. This is particularly important for communities that have historically been burdened by environmental and energy inequities. While this legislation alone cannot address the full scope of challenges posed by the climate crisis, it represents a significant step toward environmental progress across the Commonwealth.

In Boston, we will leverage the provisions of this bill to further our environmental goals, ensuring that our city continues to lead in clean energy development and workforce equity. The successful passage of this bill is a testament to the tireless work of advocates who have fought for years to make clean energy solutions more accessible and equitable. It is a major milestone in our collective journey toward a more sustainable and just future.

VII. LOCAL CONSIDERATIONS UNDER THE INCOMING FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION

In light of the incoming presidential administration's commitment to reducing funding for environmental organizations and their affiliated grant programs, it is more crucial than ever for municipalities to take the lead in combating the climate crisis. As federal support diminishes, local and state-level actions will be key to ensuring that critical environmental efforts continue. We must remain resolute in our dedication to tackling climate challenges, fostering innovation, and securing alternative funding to drive sustainability. This will require strategic planning, proactive advocacy, and the identification of new financial resources. Here are key strategies that municipalities and states can adopt to keep the momentum going in the fight against climate change.

Foundation and Grant Funding

In the event of federal funding cuts, local foundations and grant-making organizations in Boston will play an essential role in supporting the city's environmental, sustainability, and parks initiatives. Local partners, such as the Boston Foundation, the Barr Foundation, and other regional environmental nonprofits, offer crucial funding opportunities for projects addressing climate change, green infrastructure, biodiversity, and public green spaces. By tapping into these local resources, Boston can continue to advance its environmental goals, strengthen its sustainability efforts, and enhance its parks and public spaces, all while fostering collaboration with well-established regional networks dedicated to a healthier and more resilient city.

Legislative Advocacy

Advocacy remains a cornerstone of effective climate action. By engaging with state and federal lawmakers, municipalities can push for the reinstatement or redirection of funding to essential environmental programs. The Healey-Driscoll Administration has already demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing the climate crisis. Boston must work extensively with the first statewide

Climate Chief, the newly-created Office of Climate Innovation and Resilience, align with the statewide coastal resiliency strategy, and consider utilizing the Community Climate Bank. Additionally, building strong coalitions and rallying public support will help municipalities influence legislative decisions, demonstrating the long-term economic, public health, and environmental benefits of maintaining strong environmental protections.

Public-Private Partnerships (PPP)

Collaboration between local governments, private businesses, nonprofits, and philanthropic organizations offers immense potential for progress. In Boston, home to a thriving biotech sector and a growing ecosystem of climate-focused industries, there is a unique opportunity to harness innovation and expertise to advance sustainability goals. Many private entities in these sectors are increasingly committed to sustainability and are eager to invest in green technologies, infrastructure, and community programs. By fostering public-private partnerships, Boston can leverage private sector expertise, technology, and funding to further its environmental goals. These partnerships enable the city to maximize its resources and expand its capacity for transformative change

Leveraging Alternative Federal Programs

In the event of rollbacks on climate or environmental agencies, Boston can pivot to alternative federal programs and partnerships to sustain and advance its climate action goals. By strategically tapping into funding streams and technical expertise from non-environmental federal agencies, Boston can bolster its resilience and maintain momentum on key initiatives. Federal programs to target include the Department of Transportation (DOT), Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), or Department of Energy (DOE), or the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). It is essential that we align local initiatives with federal agency missions to ensure eligibility for diverse funding streams. For instance, climate-related infrastructure upgrades could be framed as public safety or economic revitalization projects to qualify for broader federal support.

Regional Collaboration

Collaboration among municipalities and states within a region can amplify the impact of environmental projects. By pooling resources and developing joint initiatives, local governments can lower costs, share expertise, and apply for collective funding opportunities. Regional approaches also foster collective responsibility, ensuring that the most pressing environmental challenges are addressed in a coordinated and efficient manner. It will be essential to collaborate with all congressional leaders to advocate for earmarked funds and competitive grant applications targeting local climate priorities. Additionally, building multi-agency coalitions with surrounding municipalities will strengthen regional funding applications and increase competitiveness for large-scale grants.

By embracing these strategies, municipalities and states can continue to champion critical environmental protection initiatives, even when federal support may be limited. The power of local leadership, combined with state-level action and cross-jurisdictional partnerships, will ensure continued progress toward sustainability and resilience, no matter the challenges we face. In this new era, as we face uncertainty at the federal level, it is more important than ever for municipalities and states to take bold action and secure the resources necessary to address the climate crisis. By utilizing these strategies, we can ensure that the work continues—empowering our communities, protecting our environment, and building a brighter, more resilient future for all.

VIII. CONCLUSION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report demonstrates the vast array of environmental justice and climate-related policies and initiatives the Committee on Environmental Justice, Resiliency, Parks has overseen and undertaken.

While the work may at times seem insurmountable, this Committee is dedicated to ensuring the City of Boston makes good on its promise to keep current and future Boston residents protected from the impacts of climate change.

Environmental justice and resiliency must be a priority for Boston to ensure equitable access to a healthy environment for all its residents, especially marginalized communities that are disproportionately affected by climate change, pollution, and environmental degradation. Boston faces challenges like rising sea levels, extreme weather, and air pollution, which can exacerbate existing social and economic disparities. Environmental impacts can have devastating consequences for our social determinants of health.

By prioritizing environmental justice, the city can create more sustainable, adaptive solutions that protect vulnerable populations, improve public health, and strengthen resilience to future environmental risks. This approach not only fosters a more just society but also ensures long-term ecological and economic stability for the city as a whole.

This report would not have been possible without the contributions and support of many individuals. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my dedicated staff for their assistance in assembling this document, particularly my Chief of Staff, Elizabeth Sanchez, and our Outreach and Communications Manager, Gabriela Ramirez. Their expertise, diligence, and commitment were invaluable throughout this process. I am also grateful to our graduate policy fellow from Tufts University, Julia Nelson, whose contributions to the initial iterations of this report were critical in shaping its foundation.

I would also like to extend my appreciation to my current council colleagues for their ongoing dedication to our shared goals, with particular thanks to Vice Chair Benjamin Weber of District Six for his leadership and collaborative efforts. Lastly, I want to acknowledge the former Chairs of this esteemed Committee, including the Honorable Kendra Lara and the Honorable Matt O'Malley, whose visionary leadership laid the groundwork for much of the progress we've achieved today. Your legacy continues to inspire and guide our work.

A special thank you goes to all the individuals and organizations I had the privilege of meeting with over the past year. Your valuable insights and expertise have been instrumental in informing the recommendations and findings presented here. To all who have contributed to this endeavor, thank you for your unwavering commitment to advancing local climate action and resilience.

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Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

January 6, 2025

Kenzie Bok, Administrator
Boston Housing Authority
52 Chauncy Street
Boston, MA 02111

Re: Boston Housing Authority Elevator Repairs

Dear Administrator Bok,

I'm writing to express my continued concerns with the broken elevators at the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) Ruth Barkley Apartments in the South End.

Before the holidays, I heard from Ruth Barley residents that the elevators are down again at 42 Harrison Archway and 16 East Brookline Street. On the week of December 9th, I visited 42 Harrison Archway, the tallest building on the site with thirteen floors. Residents complained that one of the elevators had been out of service for a year while the other had been operating on and off since Thanksgiving Day. Another neighbor mentioned that the elevator at 16 East Brookline is also out of service.

As a result of these broken elevators, a resident missed two chemotherapy sessions. This is simply unacceptable. These conditions may very well be in violation of state and federal laws, including the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

On the week of December 16th, at a Christmas lunch with the Ruth Barkley residents, I heard from more seniors and persons with disabilities who shared the challenges of not being able to go about their daily lives - get groceries, pick up medication, stay active, get to their medical, family and social appointments, access basic services during these prolonged periods of breakdowns. Those who live on higher floors also felt more isolated, which has had a negative impact on their physical and mental health.

Elevator access is essential for our seniors and persons with disabilities. While I support BHA's efforts to modernize eight of the elevators at the Ruth Barkley, there is an immediate need for the existing elevators in disrepair to be fixed.

Can you provide an update on what is being done to fix the elevators that are out of service at 42 Harrison Archway and 16 East Brookline? Is there a plan to accommodate and support our seniors who need to go to important medical appointments when elevators are down? I have serious concerns that our residents are continuing to miss critical check ups, screenings and appointments.



Boston City Council
ED FLYNN
Councilor - District 2

I'm committed to continuing to work closely with you and BHA on this issue. If you have any questions, please reach out to me at Ed.Flynn@Boston.gov, or at 617-635-3203.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ed Flynn".

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, District 2

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE TO ENHANCE DRIVEWAY ACCESSIBILITY

WHEREAS: Many residents—particularly seniors and those with disabilities—rely upon personal vehicles to attend appointments and events; *and*

WHEREAS: These residents are frequently long-term residents who own homes with private driveways and parking; *and*

WHEREAS: Boston's streets were not designed with today's traffic and vehicle size in mind; *and*

WHEREAS: As a result of high traffic and high street parking needs, many residents struggle to get in and out of their driveways safely; *and*

WHEREAS: This often results in higher usage of street parking spaces; *and*

WHEREAS: Residents with a private driveway are ineligible for dedicated handicapped parking spaces in front of their residences; *and*

WHEREAS: Public rideshare service vans often struggle to enter driveways, resulting in blocked traffic and increased danger for patrons; *and*

WHEREAS: Our residents deserve unimpeded access to their driveways and homes; **NOW
THEREFORE**

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

6-6.3.u

Section One.

1. The fine for stopping, standing, or parking a vehicle in front of any driveway including curb cuts and adjacent yellow-painted curb shall be twenty-five (\$25.00) dollars. A penalty of eight (\$8.00) dollars shall be assessed if the fine remains unpaid twenty-one (21) days after issuance of a notice of such violation.
2. The prohibited area of yellow-painted curb described in Section 6-6.3.oo.1 may extend no further than 2 feet from the start of the curb cut to be installed and maintained by Boston Transportation Department upon request from owner or resident. Boston

Transportation Department shall create a single-form application to request installation or maintenance and shall have the power to approve or deny any such application.

Section Two.

If any provision of this shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision shall be considered separately and apart from the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section Three.

The provisions of this ordinance shall be effective upon passage.

Filed in City Council: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER AND ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE TO PROTECT WORKERS FROM HEAT-RELATED ILLNESS AND INJURIES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Global warming is contributing to extreme weather conditions, including record-breaking heat waves which have been known to be deadly; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston recently had a heat emergency, setting a record for the hottest day in June at 98 degrees Fahrenheit; *and*

WHEREAS, Currently there are no required, enforceable protections in Boston for employees who have to work during heat emergencies, leaving them vulnerable to unbearable and dangerous weather conditions that can negatively impact their health; *and*

WHEREAS, Workers are left to rely on their employers to allow for water breaks, access to shade, and essential rest periods during extreme heat. Often those without a union are unable to effectively advocate for and receive adequate access to water, reest, and shade; *and*

WHEREAS, Texas and Florida, despite their extreme heat waves, have gone so far as to pass laws banning municipalities and counties within their borders from requiring employers to provide water breaks to workers in extreme heat. It is, therefore, imperative that we as a city set an example by ensuring that our workers are entitled to accommodations during heat emergencies, like the one we experienced in Boston last week; *and*

WHEREAS, It is projected that heat index values over 100 degrees will be three times more common in the Northeast by the middle of this century; *and*

WHEREAS, Although we are making strides to become a Green New Deal city and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the state level it is projected that t heat emergencies will with increasing frequency and and will only get worse as time goes on;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

Ordained by the City of Boston, as follows:

That the City of Boston Municipal Code, Ordinances be amended by adding in Chapter IV, Section 4-10:

4-10 Ordinance to protect workers from heat-related illnesses and injuries in the City of Boston

4-10.1 Definitions.

Acclimatization – temporary adaptation of the body to work in the heat that occurs gradually when a person is exposed to heat. Acclimatization peaks in most people within four to 14 days of regular work for at least two hours per day in the heat.

Contractor – any person or entity that is a party to a City contract, City lease, or City license.

Heat illness – any medical condition caused by high temperatures and humidity and resulting in, including but not limited to heat cramps, heat exhaustion, heat syncope, heat stroke, and heat edema. Heat exhaustion and heat stroke result from the body’s inability to cope with a particular heat load and require immediate medical attention.

Heat mitigation – the implementation of preventive and proactive measures by contractors to provide protection and relief from heat hazards when working on City-owned, City-leased or City-licensed property including on any City streets or dedicated rights-of-way.

Heat stress – exposure to extreme heat in a work environment, which can result in illness, injury or death.

Heat wave - a period of unusually hot weather that lasts more than two days in which the predicted high temperature for each day will be at least 80 degrees Fahrenheit and at least ten degrees Fahrenheit higher than the average high daily temperature in the preceding five days.

Drinking water – cool or cold potable water that is suitable for human consumption and is maintained in safe and sanitary conditions to prevent contamination and illness where such is not supplied through plumbed fixtures or otherwise continuously supplied. The term also includes commercially available electrolyte-replenishing beverages that do not contain caffeine.

Environmental risk factors for heat illness – working conditions that create the possibility of heat illness, including high air temperature, relative humidity, radiant heat from the sun and other sources, conductive heat from sources such as the ground, low air movement, high physical workload intensity and duration, and protective clothing and equipment worn by an employee.

Recovery period – a cool-down period of reduced heat exposure and rest to aid in cooling down the human body and avoiding heat illness.

Shade – an area that is not in direct sunlight. Shade may be provided by any natural or artificial means, such as a tree, tarp, tent, canopy, or other similar structure.

Personal risk factors for heat illness – factors specific to an individual, including but not limited to age, health, pregnancy, degree of acclimatization, water consumption, alcohol consumption, or caffeine consumption, use of prescription medications that affect the body’s water retention, or other physiological responses to heat.

Rest break – a break of not less than ten (10) minutes from work within working hours, during which an employee may not work.

Subcontractors – a firm, partnership, corporation or combination thereof having a direct contract with the contractor for all or any portion of their work that is the subject of the City contract.

4-10.2 Purpose and Scope.

The purpose of this ordinance is to ensure that all employees working for the City of Boston or under a City of Boston contract when the heat index is 80 degrees Fahrenheit or higher are afforded certain protections to include access to cool/cold drinking water, shade, rest breaks and other provisions necessary to cool down their bodies and prevent heat exhaustion and/or heat illness.

This Ordinance applies to all worksites identified by the City’s Office of Labor Compliance as likely to cause worker heat-related injuries and illness during a heat emergency and which are under the purview of the City of Boston or worksites that are run by an entity that is operating under a City contract.

4-10.4 Contract Language.

A. The following clause is required to appear in all contracts between the City and contractors as designated by the City’s Office of Labor Compliance and contracts between qualifying contractors and their subcontractors:

Any contractor whose employees and contract workers perform work in settings at risk of causing heat-related illnesses must keep on file a written Heat Illness Prevention Plan (“HIPP”) which must be made available to the City upon request, be posted where it is accessible to workers and be implemented when the heat index is 80 degrees Fahrenheit or higher. At a minimum, the HIPP shall include each of the following as it relates to heat safety and mitigation:

1. Availability of sanitized cool drinking water free of charge at locations that are readily accessible to all employees and contract workers and permission for workers to access the water anytime they have a need for hydration.
2. Specific to the worksite, location(s) with adequate shade or cooling where employees will have the ability to take rest and cooling breaks.

3. Permission for workers to take rest and cooling breaks when needed to prevent overheating.
4. Effective Work/Rest schedules designed to reduce the risk of heat illness and injury.
5. Access to shaded areas or enclosed spaces with air conditioning.
6. Effective acclimatization practices for workers newly assigned or reassigned to work in an environment identified by the Office of Labor Compliance as likely to cause a risk of heat-related illness.
7. Conduct training in a language understandable to all employees and contract workers on heat illness and injury that focuses on the environmental and personal risk factors, prevention, and how to recognize and report signs and symptoms of heat-related illness and injury, how to administer appropriate first aid, and how to report heat illness and injury to emergency medical personnel. Employers shall provide effective training/educational materials to each supervisory and non-supervisory employee before the employee begins work that should reasonably be anticipated to result in exposure to the risk of heat illness.

The contractor further agrees that this clause will be incorporated in all subcontracts with subcontractors, sublicensees or sublessees to include this clause in all contracts with any third party who is contracted to perform labor or services in connection with this contract. It is the obligation of the contractor to ensure compliance by its subcontractor.

B. *Documentation.* In addition to the documents required in subsection A of this section, upon request contractors shall provide additional documentation verifying that mitigation efforts against heat related illness or injury in the workplace are being utilized.

C. *Monitoring.* The department primarily responsible for managing any contract covered by this Ordinance shall monitor compliance with the provisions of this Ordinance.

4-10.5 Administrative Responsibility.

City departments shall include the requirements of this Ordinance in all bids, proposals, written quotes, contractual agreements, leases, licenses or requests for qualifications which are designated by the City's Office of Labor Compliance.

The Office of Labor Compliance and Worker Protections shall conduct at least two trainings annually on heat illness and protections for both indoor and outdoor workers or as much as necessary in order for employers to understand the requirements of this Ordinance. This training shall be offered to those who are found to be out of compliance with this Ordinance.

4-10.6 Failure of Contractors to Comply.

A contractor who fails to comply with the provisions of this Ordinance after receiving notice and an opportunity to cure shall be subject to those sanctions allowed by law including, but not limited to:

1. Fines up to \$100 per day after issuance of notice to cure up to date of full compliance;
2. Cancellation, termination, or suspension of the contract or ineligibility for future contracts with the City until all fines have been paid in full.

The Office of Labor Compliance and Worker Protections is hereby authorized to investigate complaints and issue/enforce the above penalties against any person, corporation or business entity reported to be in violation of this Ordinance.

4-10.7 Preemption and Severability.

Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to relieve persons from complying with existing OSHA safety regulations or other applicable provisions of the law, nor is it intended to alter or diminish any obligation otherwise imposed by law.

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unenforceable by any court, such a holding does not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision of the Ordinance, and the rest of the Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

4-10.8 Exclusions

This ordinance does not apply to any City contract, City lease, or City license with any other governmental agency.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, JULIA MEJIA, AND BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING STREET FOOD ENTERPRISES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON MUNICIPAL CODE BY INSERTING CHAPTER 17, SECTION 22, PERMITTING AND REGULATION OF NON-MOTORIZED STREET FOOD CARTS

WHEREAS, Boston is rich with cultures that bring various cuisines and customs from regions around the world. It is also a city that prides itself on empowering various communities with business opportunities to all who seek them regardless of income, immigrant status, or ability; and

WHEREAS, Street vending is the oldest informal version of commerce. Vendors can be found across our city outside of TD Garden or Fenway Park on game days and all over Faneuil Hall, but many struggle to navigate municipal bureaucracy, access the permits and understand the process to legally vend their food and beverages; and

WHEREAS, Large cities across the country like Washington D.C, Los Angeles, and New York, have a framework Boston can mirror to create street entrepreneurship opportunities for those seeking to start a small business enterprise, but do not have the means to invest in a food truck let alone a brick and mortar; and

WHEREAS, Residents resort to establishing street food carts largely out of survival or because they are unable to navigate the local bureaucracy without the help of an attorney or because they speak a language other than English; and

WHEREAS, We have the opportunity to close this gap by simplifying and expediting the permitting process, lowering the costs of licenses and fines, and ensure Boston residents are not further criminalized for attempting to make a living from their culinary talents; and

WHEREAS, Earlier this year, Washington D.C.'s Council unanimously passed legislation overhauling the District's street vendor regulations in predetermined zones while providing opportunities for street vendors themselves to self-govern the sidewalks where they conduct business; and

WHEREAS, Currently, there is no section in the Boston Municipal Code that outlines permitting and regulations for non-motorized street food carts. Codifying this section in the code, is the first step to ensuring our city can provide adequate

resources, simplified processes, and an understanding of the laws and regulations vendors must abide by to protect street food cart entrepreneurs and their clients; and

WHEREAS Inserting Chapter 17, Section 17-22, Permitting and Regulation of Non-Motorized Street Food Carts will allow Bostonians who cannot afford a brick and mortar or food truck to establish a food cart business anywhere across our city, and create greater accessibility in understanding of the permitting process. Thus, the City of Boston will develop more opportunities for entrepreneurs, expand access to cultural foods and beverages, and provide a branch towards upper economic mobility; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

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

Section 1.

The City of Boston Municipal Code, Chapter 17, Section 17-22, Permitting and Regulation of Non-Motorized Street Food Carts, is hereby amended by inserting the following provisions:

17-22 PERMITTING AND REGULATION OF NON-MOTORIZED STREET FOOD CARTS.

17-22.1 Definitions.

When used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

Commissioner shall mean the Commissioner of Public Works of the City of Boston or their designee.

The Committee shall mean the Commissioner, the Director of Small Business, and the Departments, as defined.

Departments shall mean Public Works Department, Boston Transportation Department, the Inspectional Services Department, the Office of Economic Opportunities and Inclusion, the Boston Fire Department, and the Director of Small Business, all of the City of Boston.

Food establishment shall mean a business operation that stores, prepares, packages, serves, vends or otherwise provides food for human consumption as set forth in the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 590.002.

Non-motorized street food cart shall mean a food establishment that is located upon a mobile kitchen operated by people rather than electric or gas power where food or beverage is cooked, prepared and served for individual portion service; provided however that non-motorized street food cart shall not be considered a food service establishment for the purposes of CBC 18-1.6(39).

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.2 Scope.

- a. The provisions of this section shall apply to non-motorized, street food cart operations engaged in the business of preparing and distributing food or beverage with or without charge from non-motorized, street food cart on or in public, private or restricted spaces. This section shall not apply to canteen, coffee, or ice cream non-motorized carts that move from place to place and are stationary in the same location for no more than thirty (30) minutes at a time or food vending push carts and stands.
- b. The provisions of this section shall not apply to non-motorized carts that receive a temporary event permit issued by the Public Works Department.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.3 Non-motorized Street Food Cart Committee.

- a. There shall be within the City of Boston a Non-motorized Street Food Carts Committee consisting of the Public Works Department, Boston Transportation Department, the Inspectional Services Department, the Office of Economic Opportunities and Inclusion, the Boston Fire Department, and the Director of Small Business for the purpose of reviewing applications for non-motorized street food cart permits and establishing rules and regulations as appropriate.
- b. The Committee may establish sidewalk vending zones with at least 3 designated vending spaces within each zone. A sidewalk vending zone shall:
 - i. Limit the number of sidewalk vendors allowed in each vending space to a number determined by the Committee;
 - ii. Permit sidewalk vendors to move from one vending space to another within the same sidewalk vending zone;
 - iii. Deny entry to additional sidewalk vendors if the sidewalk vending zone has reached maximum capacity;
 - iv. Require all sidewalk vendors to conspicuously display their sidewalk vending zone individual license, sidewalk vending zone manager license, or proof of registration with a sidewalk vending zone manager; and
 - v. Require all sidewalk vendors to vend from a temporary table or a cart that contains no motor or open fires, is able to be moved by hand, and is no more than 3 ft. in width and 6 ft. in length.
- c. The Committee may work with applicants for non-motorized street food cart permits and renewals to encourage the following:
 - i. Charitable components to the business of operation,
 - ii. School nutrition programs or healthy food choices,
 - iii. Programs for children or the homeless,
 - iv. Other socially responsible practices and programs,
 - v. Routes that provide access to underserved neighborhoods of the city, and
 - vi. The use of food commissaries within the City.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.4 Non-motorized Street Food Cart Permit Required.

- a. No person or business entity, including a religious or charitable organization, shall operate a non-motorized street food cart in any public, private or restricted space without a permit issued by the Committee.
- b. A non-motorized street food cart permit is required for each and every non-motorized street food cart.

(Ord. 2011 c.5)

17-22.5 Application for a Non-motorized Street Food Cart Permit.

- a. **Single Application.** There shall be made available by a representative of the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion a single application form to apply for each non-motorized street food cart permit. The application shall provide a description of necessary inspections and fees.
- b. **Submission of Materials.** Each application shall indicate on its face, in addition to other requirements as may be determined by the Committee, that the following materials must be submitted by the applicant:
 - i. The name of the business and its owner or owners and the mailing address of the business,
 - ii. A description of the proposed business plan for the non-motorized street food cart operation,
 - iii. A proposed service route within a sidewalk vending zone and hours of operation with a detailed schedule of times and locations where the cart will be stationary and serving food,
 - iv. Certification that the vehicle has passed all necessary inspections required by the Boston Fire Department, if operating an open flame or gas establishment, and Department of Inspectional Services,
 - v. If a kitchen commissary is needed, a documented agreement between the non-motorized street food cart and commissary may be required.
 - vi. A certificate of insurance providing general liability insurance listing the City as additionally insured.
- c. **Approval Process.** An application must be submitted to the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, who shall then forward to the Departments for review. The application must receive the approval of each of the Departments, based on duly published criteria established by the Committee, prior to its final approval and the issuance of a permit by the Commissioner.
 - i. The Committee may work with the applicant or permit holder to modify a service route at any time (i) before the issue of a permit or (ii) after the issue of a permit, if the grant of a permit or approval of a service route has led to the creation of a nuisance or otherwise endanger the public health, safety, or order or by request of the permit holder.
 - ii. Within sixty (30) days of the submission of a completed application, the Commissioner shall either issue or deny the application for a permit.
 - iii. If the application is denied in whole or in part, the Commissioner shall state the specific reasons for the denial. Any applicant who has been denied a permit may appeal such denial by submitting a written request for a hearing to the Commissioner within ten (10) days of denial. Such hearing shall be conducted by the Commissioner or his or her designee within thirty (30) days of receipt of said

appeal. The decision resulting therefrom shall be final and subject only to judicial review under M.G.L. c. 30A, § 14.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.6 Limitation on the Number of Permits.

The Committee may from time to time set a limit on the number of total permits that may be issued or renewed per year; provided, however, that no more than ten percent (10%) of total permits or three (3) permits, whichever is greater, may be issued to a single person or business entity or both. Upon receipt of application, the Commissioner or his or her designee shall advise the applicant whether or not the limitation has been met.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.7 Permit Renewal.

- a. Every non-motorized street food cart permit, unless suspended or revoked by the Committee for a violation of any provision of this section or other rule or regulation promulgated for the implementation of this section, shall be renewed bi-annually given that a renewal fee is paid within thirty (30) days after its one (2) year expiration, at which time the permit holder shall forfeit the right to renew and the permit may be made available to another applicant for new permit if the limitation on the number of permits has not been reached.
- b. The renewal of a permit does not also guarantee renewal of the previously approved route. The Committee reserves the right to add, remove, and reapportion available locations among non-motorized street food cart operations at renewal.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.8 Rules and Regulations.

- a. General. The Committee members are hereby authorized to promulgate, both jointly and within their respective departments, additional rules and regulations appropriate for the implementation of this section, and, if necessary, work with other agencies and departments of the City and State to establish a streamlined process for the permitting of non-motorized street food carts; provided, however, that such rules and regulations are not inconsistent with the following limitations and restrictions:
 - i. No operator of a non-motorized street food cart shall stand and conduct business within areas of the City where the permit holder has not been authorized to operate;
 - ii. No permit holder shall possess a permit for a non-motorized street food cart that is not in operation for a period of more than fourteen (14) days without duly notifying and obtaining approval from the Commissioner.
 - iii. The issuance of a permit does not grant or entitle the exclusive use of the service route, in whole or in part, to the non-motorized street food cart permit holder, other than the time and place as approved for the term of the permit;
 - iv. No non-motorized street food cart shall provide or allow any dining area, including but not limited to tables, chairs, booths, bar stools, benches, and standup counters, unless a proposal for such seating arrangements is submitted with the permit application and approved by Committee.
 - v. Consumers shall be provided with single service articles, such as forks and paper plates, and a waste container for their disposal. All non-motorized street food

carts shall offer a waste container for public use that the operator shall empty at his own expense.

- vi. No non-motorized street food cart shall make or cause to be made any unreasonable or excessive noise in violation of CBC 16-26.1.
 - vii. A non-motorized street food cart may not operate on public property unless the Commissioner and the Departments have otherwise granted approval on the permit application for its operation at the particular location during specific times.
 - viii. For non-motorized street food carts on public property, the City reserves the right to temporarily move a non-motorized street food cart to a nearby location if the approved location needs to be used for emergency purposes, snow removal, construction, or other public benefit.
- b. Inspectional Services. The Inspectional Services Department shall ensure compliance with the State Sanitary Code 105 CMR 590.
 - c. Fire Department. The Boston Fire Department shall promulgate rules and regulations for the inspection of non-motorized street food cart and to ensure compliance with all applicable federal, state, and local fire safety statutes, regulations, ordinances, and codes.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.9 Permit Fees.

- a. Application Fee. The application fee for a permit or a renewal of a permit granted by the Committee for the operation of a non-motorized street food cart shall be seventy(\$70.00) dollars.
- b. Annual Fee. An annual fee shall be required for the issuance or renewal of a non-motorized street food cart permit based on a taxable market valuation of City property by the Assessing Department, including sidewalks, from which non-motorized street food cart will stand according to a route of operation submitted with an application for a non-motorized street food cart permit. Nothing in this section shall prohibit the Committee from designating zones throughout the City for the purposes of establishing fees and rates.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.10 Prohibition Against the Transfer of a Permit.

- a. Transfers for Value Prohibited. No person holding a permit for a non-motorized street food cart shall sell, lend, lease or in any manner transfer a non-motorized street food cart permit for value.

17-22.11 Operation of Non-motorized Street Food Cart.

- a. Operation Without Permit. Any non-motorized street food cart being operated without a valid non-motorized street food cart permit issued by the Commissioner shall be deemed a public safety hazard and may be ticketed.
- b. Unattended Vehicles Prohibited. No non-motorized street food cart shall be parked on the street overnight, or left unattended and unsecured at any time food is kept on the non-motorized street food cart. Any non-motorized street food cart which is found to be unattended shall be considered a public safety hazard and may be ticketed and impounded.
- c. A non-motorized street food cart operating outside of an approved sidewalk zone, at an unauthorized location, or beyond the hours for which the operation has been permitted

shall be deemed operating without a permit in violation of this section and may be subject to enforcement under section 17-10.12.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.12 Enforcement.

- a. Fine for Violation. Any permit holder operating a non-motorized street food cart or service in violation of any provision of this section or any rules and regulations promulgated by the Committee may be subject to a fine of one hundred (\$100.00) dollars per day. Each day of violation shall constitute a separate and distinct offense. The provisions of G.L. c. 40, s. 21D may be used to enforce this section.
- b. Revocation, Suspension, Modification. Once a permit has been issued it may be revoked, suspended, modified, or not renewed by the Commissioner for failure to comply with the provisions of this section or any rules and regulations promulgated by the Committee.
 - i. No permit shall be revoked, suspended, modified, or not renewed without a hearing before the Commissioner or his or her designee, prior to which hearing the Commissioner or his or her designee shall give reasonable notice of the time and place of the hearing and the specific grounds of the proposed action. The decision resulting therefrom shall be final and subject only to judicial review under M.G.L. c. 30A, § 14.
 - ii. The Commissioner or their designee may suspend a permit for no more than three (3) days without a notice or hearing, pursuant to subsection 17-10.12(b)(1), if the Commissioner or their designee specifically notifies the permit holder in writing that there is a probability of violation of public safety, health or order. In such a case, a hearing shall be held before the Commissioner or their designee within forty-eight (48) hours of the suspension in order to determine whether the public safety, health or order concern justified the suspension.
- c. Removal. Any permit holder found in violation of this section or any rules and regulations promulgated by the Committee may be issued a ticket for violation and the non-motorized street food cart may be impounded.
- d. Enforcement. The provisions of this section or any rules and regulations promulgated by the Committee may be enforced by the Inspection Services Department.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

17-22.13 Severability.

If any provision of this section is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision shall be considered separately and apart from the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

(Ord. 2011 c. 5)

Section 2.

The provisions of this ordinance shall be effective immediately upon passage.

Filed on: January 8, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING EMPLOYEE SAFETY WITHIN BOSTON'S OIL TERMINALS

- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council has the authority to adopt ordinances designed to protect the health, safety, and welfare of all residents and workers of the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Currently, there are four active oil terminals along Chelsea Creek with one located at 467 Chelsea St. in East Boston. All of these facilities operate twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The East Boston oil terminal is the busiest terminal in terms of volume of petroleum products delivered by ship and the highest volume of transit carrying oil in the area. The East Boston oil terminal provides over 1.6 million gallons of jet fuel a day to Logan Airport. Additionally, another 1.6 million gallons are transported out of the terminal by tanker trucks; *and*
- WHEREAS,** All three other oil terminals surrounding the Chelsea Creek have mandatory staffing to ensure protection of the environment, property, and especially the public; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Chelsea has enacted legislation to standardize the minimum requirement of staffing to ensure trained employees are always onsite. This staffing guardrail provides additional layers of safety during the offloading and onloading of petroleum at terminals. The East Boston oil terminal only requires one operator onsite, unless a vessel is at the dock; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Having only one trained operator onsite at any time creates a variety of safety concerns. This includes leaving the terminal unattended during times when the operator has to perform offsite duties, lack of immediate support if the operator is injured, immense size and volume of operations, and the need to leave the site to activate a spill response in the event of a leak or failure at the terminal; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Staffing needs must be aligned across industry standards in order to guarantee the safety of terminal employees and the overall safety of the public; *and*

WHEREAS, Further protection to employees and residents is required for the oil terminals that exist within the city; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

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

ORDINANCE REGULATING OIL TERMINALS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows: That the City of Boston Municipal Code, Section 17-15.2 is hereby amended by adding the following provisions:

SECTION 1

DEFINITIONS

1. *Marine Terminal Operator* shall mean a person overseeing the operations of offloading and unloading petroleum and other hazardous materials from ship vessels to motor vehicles at oil terminals. Such persons must hold industry-recognized certifications and complete periodic training as required under this ordinance.
2. *Oil Terminal* shall mean any facility or location within the City of Boston used for the storage, transfer, or handling of petroleum, petrochemicals, or other hazardous materials from maritime vessels to other modes of transportation, including motor vehicles.
3. *Emergency Response Plan* shall mean a comprehensive plan, updated annually, outlining the procedures for addressing spills, fires, explosions, and other hazardous material emergencies at oil terminals.

SECTION 2

STAFFING AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS

1. Staffing Requirements:
 - a. All oil terminals within the boundaries of the City of Boston shall have at minimum two trained employees on duty at all times.
 - i. At least one such trained employee shall be a Marine Terminal Operator who has knowledge and training in the following areas:
 1. Storage tank type, location, and operation of all valves including pressure relief devices, operations of all piping and valves, and emergency venting operations.
 2. Operations of the loading rack(s), including emergency venting operations.
 3. Offloading operations at the dock, including ship-to-shore connections and emergency procedures.
 4. Operations of the fire suppression system(s).
 5. Spill and product release procedures, including proper notification of the fire department,
 - ii. The second trained employee shall have knowledge and training in the following areas:
 1. Storage tank type, location, and emergency procedures.

2. Operations of loading rack(s), including emergency procedures.
 3. Operations of the fire suppression system(s).
 4. Spill and product release procedures, including proper notification of the fire department.
 - b. Whenever there are offloading operations at the dock involving hazardous materials, there shall be at least two Marine Terminal Operators on duty, with one stationed at the loading rack and one at the dock site for immediate response capability.
2. Training Standards:
 - a. All employees designated as Marine Terminal Operators or fulfilling duties outlined in this section must complete training programs compliant with OSHA standards, NFPA 30, and HAZWOPER regulations.
 - b. Employees shall undergo refresher training at least annually, with documentation maintained on-site and available for inspection by the City of Boston Fire Department.
3. Emergency Preparedness:
 - a. Oil terminals shall develop and submit an Emergency Response Plan to the Boston Fire Department for approval annually. This plan must include:
 - i. Spill containment, cleanup procedures, and notification protocols.
 - ii. Fire suppression and evacuation protocols.
 - iii. Coordination procedures with local emergency services.
 1. Terminals must maintain a dedicated 24/7 communication line to facilitate immediate coordination with emergency services.
4. Inspection and Compliance:
 - a. The City of Boston Inspectional Services Department, in collaboration with the Boston Fire Department, shall conduct unannounced inspections of oil terminals to ensure compliance with staffing, training, and safety requirements.
 - b. Violations of this ordinance shall result in fines as determined by applicable laws and enforced by the Inspectional Services Department. Repeated or severe violations may result in the suspension or revocation of operating permits until deficiencies are rectified.

SECTION 3

Effective Date: This ordinance shall take effect 180 days from the date of passage. All oil terminals must certify compliance with staffing and training requirements and submit Emergency Response Plans within this timeframe.

Filed on: January 8, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDINANCE CODIFYING THE
OFFICE OF RETURNING CITIZENS

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is committed to supporting the reintegration of formerly incarcerated individuals, referred to as returning citizens, by ensuring equitable access to services and opportunities that promote successful reentry; *and*

WHEREAS, Returning citizens face unique challenges in areas such as employment, housing, health care, and education that require targeted support; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston recognizes the need for a dedicated office to advocate for and coordinate services for returning citizens in order to promote public safety, reduce recidivism, and improve community well-being; *and*

WHEREAS, Establishing the Office of Returning Citizens will ensure the provision of comprehensive reentry services and foster collaboration between city agencies, nonprofit organizations, and community partners; **NOW, THEREFORE**

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

That the City of Boston Code, Chapter V, is amended by adding the following new section and subsections:

SECTION 1. Purpose

There is hereby established within the City of Boston the Office of Returning Citizens, which shall provide support services for the formerly incarcerated to ensure their successful reintegration into the community. The Office shall work to promote equitable access to services and opportunities in the areas of employment, housing, health care, education, and social services.

SECTION 2. Duties of the Office

The Office of Returning Citizens shall:

- Serve as an advocate for returning citizens by addressing barriers to reintegration, including employment, housing, legal aid, and access to health and mental health services.

- Coordinate reentry services across City departments, nonprofit organizations, and community partners to ensure returning citizens have access to the necessary resources.
- Develop and promote programs that support the employment and workforce development of returning citizens, including partnerships with employers, job training programs, and CORI-friendly employment opportunities.
- Assist returning citizens in securing stable housing through partnerships with housing providers and programs such as the Department of Corrections' housing voucher initiative.
- Ensure access to health care services, including mental health and substance abuse treatment, by coordinating with health care providers, insurance services, and community health organizations.
- Promote financial independence by offering financial literacy programs, entrepreneurship opportunities, and assistance with accessing financial services.
- Engage with local communities and stakeholders to raise awareness of the challenges faced by returning citizens and encourage public participation in supporting reentry initiatives.
- Collect and maintain data on returning citizens served by the Office and provide an annual report to the Mayor and the City Council, detailing the Office's activities, outcomes, and recommendations for policy or program changes.

SECTION 3. Executive Director

The Office of Returning Citizens shall be headed by an Executive Director, who shall be appointed by the Mayor. The Executive Director shall:

- Serve as the principal advisor to the Mayor and the City Council on matters related to the reintegration of returning citizens.
- Oversee the daily operations of the Office, including staff management, budgeting, and the implementation of reentry programs.
- Establish partnerships with public and private organizations to enhance the services provided to returning citizens.
- Ensure compliance with all relevant laws and policies and advocate for legislative changes to improve outcomes for returning citizens.

SECTION 4. Severability

The provisions of this ordinance are severable, and if any provision, or portion thereof, is held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect 90 days after passage.



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE PREVENTING WAGE THEFT IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: “Wage theft” refers to the improper withholding of workers’ earned wages by an employer. Wage theft takes many forms, including the failure to pay employees for work performed, independent contractor misclassification, misclassification of employees as exempt from overtime pay, tip stealing, failure to pay wages in a timely manner, and prevailing wage job misclassification; and

WHEREAS: Studies have repeatedly shown that wage theft is concentrated among low-wage workers, and particularly women, minorities, non-citizens, and non-union workers, many of whom do not know their workplace rights or are too worried about retaliation by current or even future employers to bring their claims forward; *and*

WHEREAS: Wage theft is often accompanied by employer tax and insurance fraud, with employers failing to pay their payroll taxes, workers compensation premiums, or unemployment insurance premiums; *and*

WHEREAS: As a result, wage theft is common in industries such as the hospitality service industry, janitorial services, and construction. For example, in June 2021, a UMass Amherst study estimated that, in Massachusetts, misclassification of employees in the construction industry had led to a shortfall in the state’s unemployment insurance fund for 2019 of between \$24.5 and \$40.6 million; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston spends hundreds of thousands of dollars each year on procurement of various goods, services, and labor across every City department and agency; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston, as a consumer, must be cognizant of the impact that its consumption has on the workers that provide their labor pursuant to City contracts; *and*

WHEREAS: In an effort to combat wage theft, in October 2014, former City of Boston Mayor Martin J. Walsh signed an Executive Order Establishing Requirements for City Contracts in an Effort to Prevent Wage Theft (referred to as “Executive Order”). The Executive Order required City vendors to 1) verify their compliance with federal and state wage laws; 2) report wage law violations; 3) provide a wage bond where such violations existed; and 4) the Order debarred vendors who committed repeated wage violations; *and*

WHEREAS: The Executive Order further allowed the Boston Licensing Board to revoke or deny licenses to businesses who commit wage violations. It does not appear, however, that even a single license has been revoked or denied due to wage violations since the Executive Order was enacted; *and*

WHEREAS: Wage theft continues to be an issue in Boston, including with businesses that contract with the City. A recent study by Mayor Michelle Wu’s Worker Empowerment Cabinet of wage theft violations issued by the Massachusetts Attorney General’s Office and the United States Department of Labor found that 35 percent of Boston wage theft violations (totaling around \$4.3 million in wages and penalties) involved companies that had a City of Boston license or contract.

WHEREAS: Wage theft also makes it harder for honest businesses to compete and creates a race to the bottom for the City’s business community, as well as impeding the City’s economic development and growth; *and*

WHEREAS: It has long been recognized that the underlying purpose of the wage laws concerns not only the health and welfare of the workers themselves, but also the public health and general welfare. Accordingly, wage theft directly impacts Boston residents’ health and contributes to the racial wealth gap, making it difficult for the City’s low-wage workers to pay for housing or basic services such as health or child care; *and*

WHEREAS: Requiring city contractors, subcontractors and bidders to comply with applicable federal and state wage laws, strengthens the City’s ability to contract with vendors that ensure that workers are properly paid for their work; *and*

WHEREAS: Prohibiting the City from contracting with debarred contractors for the period of debarment will help to ensure that City resources are not used to support businesses which either intentionally violate state and federal wage laws or permit such violations to occur on projects they oversee; *and*

WHEREAS: Withholding businesses licenses will help the City ensure its workers are treated fairly and that honest business practices that comply with already-existing law are incentivized; *and*

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council has a duty to protect employees from predatory employer practices like wage theft; **NOW THEREFORE**

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

That the City of Boston Code, Ordinances be amended in Chapter XXIV by adding the following after 24-14:

25-1: Ordinance preventing wage theft in the City of Boston

Section 1. Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to assure that all workers in the City of Boston are paid in full, for all hours worked on a timely basis and that Boston employers who pay their workers in compliance with applicable wage and hour laws are not undercut by non-compliant employers.

This ordinance will facilitate the enforcement of state and federal wage and hour laws and promote the public welfare of Bostonians. This ordinance is also intended to bolster compliance with the City's existing licensing and permitting requirements.

Section 2. Definitions

A. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following definitions apply:

1. "Employee" - any natural person who performs work for an employer that provides any services within the City of Boston, but shall not include a bona fide independent contractor as defined by G.L. c. 149, § 148B;

2. "Employer" - any natural person or business, whether or not incorporated or unincorporated, who (1) employs an individual in the City of Boston; (2) employs an individual pursuant to a contract to which the City of Boston or one of its Departments is signatory, or under agreement with the City for tax incentives; or (3) who otherwise maintains a commercial presence in the City of Boston. The use of a subcontractor shall not be a bar to a finding of a person or entity as an employer. An individual may be considered to be an employer in addition to an incorporated business as defined by G.L. c. 149, § 148.

This definition excludes:

1) The United States or a corporation wholly owned by the government of the United States; and

2) The Commonwealth of Massachusetts, its subdivisions, and corporate bodies.

3. "Employ," including as used in the term "employment," is governed by the ABC Test outlined in G.L. c. 149, § 148B ("Massachusetts Independent Contractor Law").

4. "Independent contractor" - as defined in G.L. c. 149, § 148B and any applicable regulations or advisory guidance implementing that statute.

5. “Joint employer” – includes any Employer who suffers or permits an individual to perform work for another entity such as a subcontractor.
6. “Minimum wage” – as defined at G.L. c. 149 §§ 27-27H, 152A, G.L. c. 151, § 1 and 29 U.S.C. § 206 as well as any other state or federal statute or regulation establishing a minimum fair wage for particular occupations or classes of workers.
7. “Overtime” – as defined in G.L. c. 151, § 1A and 29 U.S.C. § 207.
8. “Prevailing wage” – as defined in G.L. c. 149, §§ 26-27H or under federal prevailing wage laws and/or regulations, 40 U.S.C. § 3141, et seq and 41 U.S.C. 351, et seq.
9. “Timely Payment of Wages” – as defined by G.L. c. 149, § 148.
10. “Wage” – as defined by G.L. c. 149, §148 and/or 29 U.S.C. § 201.
11. “Wage Theft” – any action or omission by an employer, the employer’s officers, agents, or employees, causing an employer to violate federal or state wage laws, such as 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq., Massachusetts Wage Act, M.G.L. c. 149, §§ 148, 150, federal or state prevailing wage laws, resulting from claims including those of improper (1) classification as an independent contractor and/or non-employee exempt from federal and state minimum wage and/or overtime laws, or any other alleged misclassification under federal or state laws or any alleged misclassification related to other employment-related claims; (2) deductions from compensation and/or wages; (3) failure to pay minimum wages; (4) failure to provide proper pay stubs or other records related to hours worked, wages earned, and/or payroll deductions; (5) failure to pay, indemnify, and/or reimburse for work-related expenses; (6) failure to pay all wages when due; (7) failure to calculate and/or pay overtime compensation; (8) failure to pay or allow the use of accrued vacation or sick time; and (9) failure to keep and maintain any records required to be kept or maintained under federal and/or state wage and hour laws. This list is not exhaustive.
12. “Application” – an initial application or a renewal of a license or permit.
13. “City Contractor” – an Employer who currently holds or seeks to hold a contract for goods, services, or labor with the City of Boston.
13. “Administrative Citation” – a civil citation issued by the Attorney General of the Commonwealth pursuant to G.L c. 149 § 27C, a civil citation issued by the U.S. Department of Labor pursuant to 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. and/or 29 C.F.R. § 578, or any other civil citation for violation of M.G.L. c. 149 or c. 151 and/or 29 U.S.C. § 201 et seq. issued by any other federal, state, or local administrative agency.
14. “Civil Judgment” – a judgment issued by a State or Federal court, including a final adjudication or a ruling on summary judgment, concluding as a matter of law that a contractor

or subcontractor committed wage theft as defined in this Ordinance or misclassification of employees pursuant to Federal law or the law of any State.

15. “Stop work order” – as defined in G.L. c. 152, § 25C and 452 C.M.R. § 8.00.
16. “Subcontractor” – a person other than a materialman or laborer who enters into a contract with a contractor for the performance of any part of such contractor’s contract.
17. “TIF Agreement” – a tax increment financing agreement, as such term is defined by G.L. c. 23A, § 3A, c. 40, § 59, and 760 C.M.R. 22.00 et seq.
18. “TIF Plan” – a tax increment financing plan, as such term is defined by 760 C.M.R. 22.00 et seq.
19. “EACC” – Economic assistance coordinating council, as defined by G.L. c. 23A, § 3A and established by G.L. c. 23A, § 3B.

SECTION 3. Office of Labor Compliance and Worker Protection and Wage Theft Advisory Committee.

Purpose

The City of Boston’s Office of Labor Compliance and Worker Protection (OLCWP) shall implement and provide oversight of the City’s Wage Theft Prevention activities, including but not limited to community outreach, complaint intake and resolution, coordination with other City departments as set forth below, oversight and performance of this Ordinance’s provisions relative to City procurement as set forth below, and cooperation and coordination with the Commonwealth’s Office of the Attorney General on issues of common concern. The OLCWP shall also develop guidance, policies, and recommendations from time to time in connection therewith. The OLCWP may take on additional duties related to and advancing the purposes of this Ordinance at the request of the Mayor.

Wage Theft Advisory Council

The Office of the Mayor shall appoint an Advisory Council of seven members with knowledge of the many communities vulnerable to wage theft in the City of Boston and/or experience in combating wage theft.

The Advisory Council shall include one member representing worker centers, one member from a group of three names nominated by the Greater Boston Labor Council, one member from a group of three names provided by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, and one member nominated by the Boston City Council President.

Vacancies on the Council shall be filled as soon as practicable.

The Advisory Council shall meet with the OLCWP on a periodic basis. Consultations between the Advisory Council and the OLCWP shall include, but not be limited to, the establishment and maintenance of a community-based outreach program working with each of the City's communities vulnerable to wage theft to facilitate public education and the eradication of wage theft.

**Powers and Duties of the Office of Labor Compliance and Worker Protection
Regarding the Prevention of Wage Theft**

(a) Annual Report to the Office of the Mayor and City Council

OLCWP shall publish an annual report detailing all wage theft complaints received and actions taken by the OLCWP in response to such complaints, including specifically the status or final disposition of each complaint. The report shall also include civil and criminal judgments issued by the state and federal courts, administrative citations issued by the Attorney General, and final administrative orders, including but not limited to debarments, against Employers pursuant to G.L. c. 149 §§ 26-27H, 148 and G.L. c. 151 §§ 1, 1A, either related to complaints received by the OLCWP, related to current City Contractors, or related to employers who have had a contract with the City of Boston in the last years.

(b) Employee Rights Posters and Other Public Awareness Measures

The OLCWP shall require employers within the City of Boston to post a notice informing Employees of Programs and Services of the OLCWP and the protections offered by the City and Massachusetts law. The poster shall be available in English, Spanish, Chinese, Vietnamese, and Portuguese, Cape Verdean Creole and Haitian Creole. The Office of Language and Communication Access shall be consulted on whether any languages should be included.

From time to time, the OLCWP shall also publish materials, advertise, and perform outreach to raise public awareness concerning the OLCWP's programs, compliance with state and federal wage and hour laws, and problems associated with wage theft.

(c) Wage Theft Complaints Under Massachusetts and Federal Law

The OLCWP shall receive complaints of violations of law committed by Employers under G.L. c. 149 §§ 26-27H, 148 and G.L. c. 151 §§ 1, 1A and/or under 29 U.S.C. 201, et seq. and federal prevailing wage laws.

The OLCWP shall develop a separate form for violations of state and federal law committed by Employers holding contracts with the City ("Contractor Wage Theft Forms").

The OLCWP shall also assist affected employees in filling out municipal, state, and federal complaint forms at its offices and at City-sponsored events in collaboration with other City departments.

(d) Transmission of Non-Payment and Prevailing Wage Complaints to Massachusetts Attorney General and U.S. Department of Labor

Unless otherwise specified in writing by the complainant, the OLCWP shall forward an original of each complaint submitted to it pursuant to G.L. c. 149 §§ 26-27H, 148 and G.L. c. 151 to the Attorney General's office, contemporaneous with receipt.

Unless otherwise specified in writing by the complainant, the OLCWP shall forward an original of each complaint submitted to it pursuant to 29 U.S.C § 201, et seq. and/or federal prevailing wage statutes to the U.S. DOL, Region 1, contemporaneous with receipt.

On a Quarterly basis, the Mayor, personally or through a designee, will meet with the Office of the Attorney General and U.S. DOL, Region 1 to discuss complaints involving Employers within the City of Boston and to better coordinate on issues of wage theft in the City.

(e) OLCWP Duty to Monitor Wage Theft Complaints Against Employers with Whom the City Holds Contracts for Goods, Services, and/or Labor.

The OLCWP shall meet with representatives of the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office and the U.S. Department of Labor on a quarterly basis to identify pending investigations and findings of any infractions by those agencies related to work performed by City Contractors. Furthermore, complaints against City Contractors shall be monitored by the OLCWP even after being promptly referred to the relevant State or Federal authorities.

(f) Voluntary Mediation of Wage Theft Complaints

The OLCWP may develop and offer mediation to complainants and their respective employers as a means to efficiently resolve wage theft complaints. This service shall be voluntary, meaning that both parties must agree to use the OLCWP to mediate the contents of the complaint in writing. The contents and results of any mediation, as well as the identities of the parties shall be kept confidential to the extent permitted by the Massachusetts General Laws and the City's ordinances.

(f) Public Database of Wage Theft Ordinance Violations

The OLCWP shall compile, develop and maintain on the City's website (www.boston.gov) a publicly accessible, searchable database of criminal and civil judgments, final state administrative orders and citations under G.L. c. 149 §§ 26-27H, 148-148C and G.L. c. 151 §§ 1, 1A against City Contractors as defined by this Ordinance. The database shall also include criminal and civil judgments and consent orders, administrative orders and citations, under 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq., 40 U.S.C. § 3141, et seq and 41 U.S.C. 351, et seq. The OWPCL shall include information for City Contractors for the above-mentioned infractions starting three years prior to the date this ordinance goes into effect.

The database will also include any pending litigation in State or Federal court or investigations pending with the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office or the federal Department of Labor regarding current City Contractors that relate to the payment of wages.

(g) Coordination with City Departments Issuing Permits and Licenses.

(1) Upon Application. All City of Boston Departments responsible for issuing, suspending, or renewing any license of permit regarding businesses of the kind which the City of Boston contracts for the performance of goods, services, or labor, shall notify the OLCWP at least seven (7) business days preceding any action on any license or permit and identify the action sought, the name and address of the applicant business and all owners of the business. Prior to the Department taking action, the OLCWP will notify the applicable Department involved of any civil or criminal judgments, final administrative orders and citations, and/or debarments, or pending legal action that relates to the payment of wages, against the applicant business and/or its owners under state or federal law, as well as and any pending wage theft complaints received by the City against the applicant and/or its owners, within the last three (3) years.

(2) After Issuance.

- a. Any complaints of wage theft filed against a license or permit holder with the City's Purchasing Agent, Licensing Commission, the City Council, and/or other City departments and offices shall be forwarded promptly to the OLCWP and complaints filed with the OLCWP shall be provided to the same offices. If the complaint pertains to work performed at any property subject to a TIF Agreement, the OLCWP office shall also send a copy to the EACC.
- b. Upon receipt of a new civil or criminal judgment, final administrative order or citation, and/or debarment against a City license or permit holder, the OLCWP will provide notice of the same, with a copy of the decision, to the relevant City Department for review and action consistent therewith.

(h) OLCWP coordination with the Auditors' Office in Monitoring Compliance with City Procurement Requirements.

The Auditor's Office shall develop RFP provisions and certifications that require the reporting of wage theft violations and settlements as a condition of securing a contract with the City of Boston for the provision of goods, services, or labor.

(i) Electronic, Automated Process for Review of Certified Payrolls, Processing of Certified Payrolls, and Investigation of Non-Payments found therein

The City shall require all City Contractors, and sub-contractors of City Contractors, providing goods, services and/or labor in excess of \$100,000 to provide certified payrolls for each pay period within a contract in an electronic format, specified

by the City Auditor, which will be reviewed by the City Auditor or his/her designee on at least a monthly basis. A City Contractor or sub-contractor of a City Contractor will be notified of any payroll with ten or more apparent discrepancies within 30 business days of discovery.

(j) Outreach to Community Organizations.

The OLCWP shall establish and maintain a community-based outreach program working with communities across the City to facilitate public education and the eradication of wage theft.

In partnership with organizations involved in the community-based outreach program, the OLCWP shall create outreach materials that are designed for workers in particular industries.

The OLCWP may develop a grant program for organizations it partners with in performing outreach activities.

Section 4. Requirements for City Contractors

A. RFP/Bid and Successful Bidder Requirements

Every Request for Proposals (RFP) or bid issued by the City of Boston’s Procurement Agent shall include the certification and disclosure requirements imposed by this Section:

1. Every RFP or bid issued shall notify bidders that they have an affirmative duty to report any criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, or final administrative determination for wage theft against the bidder or any of its subcontractors entered within the three (3) years prior to bid submission, as well as any debarments against the bidder or any of its subcontractors in effect while its bid is pending to the City, and shall further notify bidders that if they are the successful bidder, they and any of their subcontractors have an affirmative duty to report any criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, final administrative determination, order, or debarment against the bidder or any its subcontractors while their contract with the City is in effect, within five (5) business days of receipt. The RFP or bid will identify the OLCWP and the awarding authority as the departments to whom this must be reported.

2. Every RFP or bid issued by the City and/or its Departments shall notify bidders that they may not contract with the City if they have been either voluntarily or involuntarily debarred by the federal government, any agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any other state, or any municipal body – including, but not limited to, the City of Boston – for the entire term of the debarment.

3. Every RFP or bid issued by the City and/or its Departments shall notify bidders that they may not utilize subcontractors on their contracts with the City

who have been voluntarily or involuntarily debarred by the federal government, any agency of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or any other state, or any municipal body-including, but not limited to, the City of Boston -for the entire term of the debarment.

4. Bidders that are subject to municipal, state, or federal debarment for violation of the above laws, either voluntarily or involuntarily, or that have been prohibited from contracting with the Commonwealth or any of its agencies or subdivisions will be deemed not responsible and their bids or proposals shall be rejected. Such bidders shall be deemed not responsible for the entire term of debarment or other stated time period. During the term of a Contract, upon a finding or order of such debarment or prohibition, the City may terminate the contract.

5. Every Request for Proposals (RFP) and/or Grant Application issued by the City, shall include the certification and disclosure requirements included in this Section. All successful Applicants for contracts, grants, and tax incentives shall provide complete and accurate responses to the same.

These certification and disclosure requirements shall include:

- A requirement for documentation reflecting the Applicant's demonstrated commitment to workforce development within Boston and/or the Commonwealth;
- A requirement that the Applicant will provide a statement of intent concerning efforts that it and its contractors and subcontractors will take to promote workforce development on the project if successful;
- A requirement for documentation reflecting the Applicant's demonstrated commitment to economic development within Boston and/or the Commonwealth;
- A requirement that the Applicant provide a statement of intent concerning efforts that it and its contractors and subcontractors on this project will take to promote economic development on the project if successful;
- A requirement for documentation reflecting the Applicant's demonstrated commitment to expand workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion in its past projects within Boston and/or the Commonwealth;
- A requirement that the Applicant provide a statement of intent concerning efforts that it and its contractors and subcontractors on this project, will undertake to expand workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion on the project if successful;
- A requirement that the Applicant disclose whether it and each of its contractors and subcontractors on this project, have previously contracted with a labor organization, as defined by Massachusetts General Laws, c. 150A and/or the National Labor Relations Act, Section 2, in the Commonwealth or elsewhere.

- A requirement that the Applicant specify whether it and each of its contractors and subcontractors on this project participates in a state or Federally certified apprenticeship program and the number of apprentices the apprenticeship program has trained to completion for each of the last five (5) years.

6. Successful bidders and their subcontractors must either:

a. Provide a certification of compliance with M.G.L. c. 149, c. 151 and 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* as required by this Section; a form certification will be attached to each RFP issued by the City. To the extent that the bidder has been in business for less than three years prior to the bid deadline, it shall provide a certification certifying compliance for the entire period of time for which the entity has been in existence.

b. To the extent a judgment, citation, or administrative order has been issued against a bidder within three years prior to its bid, the bidder must provide a copy of the same, in addition to documentation demonstrating that the bidder has paid all damages, fines, penalties, costs, and fees in full. In addition, the bidder must post a wage bond or other comparable form of insurance in an amount equal to the aggregate of one year's gross wages for all employees employed by the bidder in the City of Boston (based on average payroll for the last two years), to be maintained for the life of the contract, as specified by this Section.

c. To the extent a judgment, citation, or administrative order has been issued against a subcontractor of the successful bidder within three years prior to its bid, the bidder must provide a copy of the same, in addition to documentation demonstrating that the sub-contractor has paid all damages, fines, penalties, costs, and fees in full. In addition, the bidder or its subcontractor must post a wage bond or other comparable form of insurance in an amount equal to the aggregate of one year's gross wages for all employees employed by the sub-contractor in the City of Boston (based on average payroll for the last two years), to be maintained for the life of the contract, as specified by this Section.

7. Successful bidders and their sub-contractors must agree to post the notice available at <http://www.mass.gov/ago/docs/workplace/wage/wagehourposter.pdf> in a conspicuous location accessible to all of their employees. To the extent not all employees would have reasonable access to the notice if posted in a single location by the successful bidder, the successful bidder must inform the Purchasing Agent or other City department of the number and location of postings in order to ensure that the successful bidder and his/her sub-contractor provide reasonable notice to all of their employees and agrees to make those additional postings.

B. Additional Reporting and Notice Requirements during the Contract Term.

1. All City Contractors, and/or subcontractors of City Contractors, providing

goods, services, or labor in excess of \$100,000 per annum, shall furnish their monthly certified payrolls in an electronic format set forth by the City to the City Auditor and the OLCWP for all employees working on City contracts.

2. To the extent a contract is for a term of one year or more, a City Contractor, and his/her sub-contractors, will provide the City of Boston with a certification compliant with this Section on the effective date of the contract and at each anniversary thereof until the contract expires.

C. Wage Bonds during the Contract Term.

1. Any City Contractor or subcontractor of a City Contractor who has had a criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, final administrative determination, debarment or order, resulting from a violation of M.G.L. c. 149, M.G.L. c. 151, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* or any other state or federal laws regulating the payment of wages within three (3) years prior to the date the City Contractor submitted its bid(s), shall be required by the City to obtain a wage bond or other comparable form of insurance in an amount equal to the aggregate of one year's gross wages for all employees employed by the City Contractor (or sub-contractor) on the specific City of Contractor contract, based on an average of its total labor costs in the City for the past two years. Such bond must be maintained for the term and any extensions of any Contract, and proof of such bond must be provided upon request by the City.

2. Any City Contractor or sub-contractor of as City Contractor that receives a criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, final administrative determination, order, or debarment, resulting from a violation of M.G.L. c. 149, M.G.L. c. 151, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, or any other state or federal laws regulating the payment of wages during the term of the Contract, and that is not otherwise prohibited from public contracting, shall be required by the City to obtain a wage bond or other form of comparable insurance in an amount equal to the aggregate of one year's gross wages for employees employed on the specific City of Boston contract, based on an average of its total labor costs on the contract for its duration or two years, whichever is less. Such bond must be maintained for the terms or extensions of any Contract, and proof of such bond must be provided upon request by the City.

D. Suspension or Revocation of Contract/Wage Theft as Material Breach of Conditions in RFP or Bid

If a City Contractor is found to be in violation of G.L. c. 149, G.L. c. 151, or 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, or this Section, and therefore in breach of its contract with the City, the City may take one or more of the following actions:

1. Revocation of City Contractor's contract with the City;

2. Suspension of City Contractor's contract with the City;
3. Imposing conditions on any future contracts with the City, including, but not limited to, the posting of a wage bond and other reasonable requirements.

E. Requirements for Successors-in-Interest

The requirements of this Section, including any sanctions imposed herein, that are applicable to any Employer shall also be applicable to, and effective against, any successor Employer that (i) has at least one of the same principals or officers as the prior Employer; and (ii) is engaged in the same or equivalent trade or activity as the prior Employer.

F. Additional Requirements for Municipal Construction Contracts.

Whenever the City is procuring construction services pursuant to G.L. c. 149, c. 149A or c. 30, § 39M, in addition to the other requirements described in this ordinance, the following shall also apply:

1. Construction Bidders:

All bidders, proposers, contractors, and subcontractors or subcontractors shall, as a condition of bidding, contracting, or subcontracting, certify in writing that they shall comply with the following conditions:

a. The contractor shall maintain or shall obtain documentation from a subcontractor that it maintains an appropriate level of industrial accident insurance sufficient to provide coverage for all employees on the project in accordance with G.L. c. 152 and provide documentary proof of such coverage as a condition of acceptance of their bid.

b. The contractor shall not suffer or permit workers to be misclassified as independent contractors on the project and shall neither suffer nor permit workers to be misclassified for the purposes of prevailing wage or overtime, worker's compensation coverage, social security taxes, and state and federal income tax withholding.

c. The contractor shall not suffer or permit workers on the project to be paid less than their earned wages and that such wages be paid within the time prescribed by federal and Massachusetts law.

d. The contractor will make arrangements to ensure that all workers on the project complete daily sign-in/signout logs listing: the worker's name, the name of the employer, the location of the project, current date, the time of entry and exit from the worksite. The log shall state that employees are entitled to the prevailing wage rate under state law and the rate sheet for the project shall be attached to the log.

e. The sign-in/sign-out logs shall be provided to the OLCWP

on a weekly basis.

2. Construction Contractors

Contractors or subcontractors awarded or who otherwise obtain projects subject to G.L. c. 149, Sec. 44A(2), c. 149A, of c. 30, Sec. 39M shall comply with each of the obligations set forth above for the entire duration of the project.

3. Sanctions for Violations

Any proposer, bidder, trade contractor or subcontractor under the bidder or prosper that fails to comply with any of the obligations set for herein may be subject to the following at the sole discretion of the City of Boston: 1) stop work order on the project until compliance is obtained; 2) withholding of payment due under any contractor or subcontract related to the project until compliance is obtained; 3) debarment; and/or 4) liquidated damages payable to the City of up to five percent of the dollar value of the contract.

Section 5. Requirements for Licensees and Prospective Licensees.

A. Requirements for License Applicants

Any application filed by an Employer to the City of Boston for any license or permit issued pursuant to M.G.L. c. 138 or M.G.L. c. 140 may be denied if, during the three (3)-year period prior to the date of the application, the applicant Employer has been subject to a federal or state criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, order, debarment, or final administrative determination resulting from a violation of M.G.L. c. 149, M.G.L. c. 151, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, or any other state or federal laws regulating the payment of wages.

In submitting an application for a license or permit under either section, each such Employer-applicant must either:

- (1) certify that the Employer, its officers, and managers have not been found guilty, liable or responsible, in the past three (3) years, in any judicial or administrative proceeding, for any violation of any of the laws set forth above; or
- (2) To the extent an Employer is unable to truthfully make the above certification, provide:
 - a. a true copy of the federal or state criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, order, debarment, or final administrative determination resulting from a violation of M.G.L. c. 149, M.G.L. c. 151, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, or any other state or federal laws regulating the payment of wages, and

- b. proof that the Employer has paid all associated damages, fines, penalties in full.

B. Requirements for License and Permit Holders.

Employers holding licenses and permits subject to Chapters 138 or 140 have an affirmative duty to report any criminal or civil decision and/or judgment, administrative citation or final administrative order issued against them for Wage Theft while their licenses or permits are in effect and to provide a true copy of the same, within five (5) business days of receipt, to the OLCWP.

Any license or permit issued under M.G.L. c. 138 or M.G.L. c. 140 to an Employer may be modified, suspended or revoked if, during the term of the license or permit, the licensee or permittee Employer has been subject to a criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, final administrative determination, order, or debarment resulting from a violation of M.G.L. c. 149, M.G.L. c. 151, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* or any other state or federal laws regulating the payment of wages.

Any license or permit issued under M.G.L. c. 138 or M.G.L. c. 140 to an Employer may be modified, suspended or revoked if, during the term of the license or permit, the licensee or permittee Employer fails to timely provide notice and documentation of Wage Theft complaints against the Employer.

C. Wage Bonds for License Holders

Employers granted a License or Permit that have disclosed a criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, final administrative determination, order, or debarment resulting from a violation of M.G.L. c. 149, M.G.L. c. 151, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.* or any other state or federal laws regulating the payment of wages within three (3) years prior to the date they submit their applications, may be required by the City to obtain a wage bond or other form of comparable insurance in an amount equal to the aggregate of one year's gross wages for all employees, based on an average of its total labor costs for the past two years.

Employers granted a License or Permit who become subject to a federal or state criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, final administrative determination, order, or debarment resulting from a violation of M.G.L. c. 149, M.G.L. c. 151, 29 U.S.C. § 201 *et seq.*, or any other state or federal laws regulating the payment of wages during the term of the License or Permit, may be required by the City to obtain a wage bond or other form of comparable insurance in an amount equal to the aggregate of one year's gross wages for all employees, based on an average of its total labor costs for the past two years.

The bond must be maintained for the terms or extensions of any License or Permit, and proof of such bond must be provided upon request by the City. Failure to

comply with this Subsection may constitute grounds for modification, suspension, and/or revocation of the license or permit pursuant to Subsection B.

D. Requirements for successors-in-interest.

The requirements of this Section, including any sanctions imposed herein, that are applicable to any Employer shall also be applicable to, and effective against, any successor Employer that (i) has at least one of the same principals, officers, or managers as the prior Employer; and (ii) is engaged in the same or equivalent trade or activity as the prior Employer.

Section 6: Requirements for Tax Increment Financing (TIF) Agreements

A. Required Notices and Responses.

Every solicitation for a project including TIF funding issued by the City, shall include the certification and disclosure requirements included in this Section. All successful Applicants for contracts, grants, and tax incentives shall provide complete and accurate responses to the same.

These certification and disclosure requirements shall include:

- A requirement for documentation reflecting the Applicant's demonstrated commitment to workforce development within Boston and/or the Commonwealth;
- A requirement that the Applicant will provide a statement of intent concerning efforts that it and its contractors and subcontractors will take to promote workforce development on the project if successful;
- A requirement for documentation reflecting the Applicant's demonstrated commitment to economic development within Boston and/or the Commonwealth;
- A requirement that the Applicant provide a statement of intent concerning efforts that it and its contractors and subcontractors on this project will take to promote economic development on the project if successful;
- A requirement for documentation reflecting the Applicant's demonstrated commitment to expand workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion in its past projects within Boston and/or the Commonwealth;
- A requirement that the Applicant provide a statement of intent concerning efforts that it and its contractors and subcontractors on this project, will undertake to expand workforce diversity, equity, and inclusion on the project if successful;
- A requirement that the Applicant disclose whether it and each of its contractors and subcontractors on this project, have previously contracted with a labor

organization, as defined by Massachusetts General Laws, c. 150A and/or the National Labor Relations Act, Section 2, in the Commonwealth or elsewhere.

- A requirement that the Applicant specify whether it and each of its contractors and subcontractors on this project participates in a state or Federally certified apprenticeship program and the number of apprentices the apprenticeship program has trained to completion for each of the last five (5) years.

B. Additional Certifications and Disclosures.

It shall be a special and material condition of any future TIF Agreement that any and all persons, natural or corporate, who are signatories to the TIF Agreement provide the City of Boston, via the OLCWP, with a list of all construction managers, general contractors, lead or prime contractors, developers, or any entity functioning in any such capacity, and any other contractor or subcontractor of any tier engaged to perform work on the property subject to the tax increment financing plan during the term of the TIF Agreement. An initial list must be provided to the OLCWP at least thirty (30) business days prior to the start of any work on the property subject to the TIF Agreement. Should any additional or replacement entities be engaged to perform work on the property subject to the TIF Agreement during the term of the TIF Agreement, the signatory must provide the name of such entity no later than ten (10) business days before that entity begins work on the property.

All signatories to the TIF Agreement shall certify that they shall not engage any entity to perform work on the property covered under the TIF Agreement which is subject to debarment for any reason or has been found liable/responsible for any unpaid criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, or final administrative determination for Wage Theft.

All TIF signatories shall certify that they do not (a) have entities performing work on the property who have been the subject of an indictment, judgment, or grant of immunity, including pending actions, for any business-related conduct constituting a crime under state or federal law; nor (b) have any entities performing work on the property who have been the subject to voluntary or involuntary debarment under either federal or state law; nor (c) have entities performing work on the property who have been found liable for Wage Theft under state and/or federal law within three (3) years prior to the execution of the TIF Agreement.

If, notwithstanding such certification, any interested person gives the City of Boston written notice, via the OLCWP, that the certification provided by any signatory in the form provided above is materially inaccurate and provide the bases therefore, OLCWP shall write to all signatories to the TIF Agreement within ten (10) business days to request reverification and/or remediation of the certification. Should the signatory fail to come into compliance—by ensuring that the person or entity not in compliance with the terms of

the certification fulfills all outstanding obligations under a court or administrative order or is replaced—within fifteen (15) business days of notice, the signatory shall be in material breach of the TIF Agreement because it materially frustrates the public purpose for which this TIF Agreement and any certification of the tax increment financing plan by the City was intended to advance. The consequences of a signatory providing an inaccurate certification and the procedures for remediation will be included in each TIF Agreement.

C. Special and Material Conditions of TIF Agreements with City of Boston.

It shall be a special and material condition of any TIF Agreement that any construction manager, general contractor, or other lead or prime contractor, or any entity functioning in any such capacity, and any other contractor or subcontractor of any tier or other person that is engaged to perform the work during the term of their TIF Agreement on the property that is the subject of the Tax Increment Financing Plan shall comply with the following qualification and condition at all times during their performance of work on the property:

- (1) The firm must maintain appropriate industrial accident insurance sufficient to provide coverage for all the employees on the project in accordance with G.L. c.152 and provide documentary proof of such coverage to the Building Inspector to be maintained in the Building Department as a public record;
- (2) The firm must properly classify all workers who are employees and treat them accordingly under the tests set forth in M.G.L. c. 149, § 148B for purposes of compensation on both a straight time and overtime basis and coverage under the earned sick time law, and M.G.L. c. 152, § 1(4) for purposes of workers' compensation insurance coverage;
- (3) The firm must comply with G.L. c. 149, § 148, G.L. c. 151 §§ 1, 1A, and 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq., with respect to the payment of wages and overtime;
- (4) The firm must comply with G.L. c. 149, G.L. c. 151, and 29 U.S.C. § 201, et seq. with respect to prohibitions on discrimination, adverse action, interference with, restraint, or denial of the exercise of the rights of any person in connection with the assertion or anticipated assertion of their own or others' rights under these laws; and The firm must be in compliance with the health and hospitalization requirements of the Massachusetts Health Care Reform law established by Chapter 58 of the Acts of 2006, as amended, and regulations promulgated under that statute by the Commonwealth Health Insurance Connector Authority.

D. Wage Theft Complaints for Properties Covered by TIF Agreements

Within ten (10) business days of receiving a complaint related to Wage Theft

that pertains to work performed at any property subject to a TIF Agreement, the OLCWP shall send notice of such complaint to all signatories of the TIF Agreement.

If, after the OLCWP has properly served notice of a complaint upon the signatories to a TIF Agreement pursuant to this subsection, any Employer becomes subject to a federal or state criminal or civil judgment, administrative citation, stop work order, debarment, or final administrative determination resulting from a violation of any of the legal obligations outlined at subsections (B)(1)-(4), and if such judgment, citation, or order is not satisfied or discharged, or the offending Employer replaced on the project, within fifteen (15) business days of the entry of such judgment, citation, or order, the parties agree that such an event materially frustrates the public purpose that the TIF Agreement and any certification of the tax increment financing plan by the City was intended to advance.

E. Termination of TIF Agreements

In the event the public purpose of a TIF Agreement or TIF Plan is materially frustrated pursuant to Subsection (A) and/or (C), the OLCWP will promptly refer the matter to the City Council, which shall hold a public hearing and vote at its next regularly scheduled meeting regarding whether to terminate the tax relief provided by such TIF agreement and petition the EACC for revocation of that portion of its certification of the TIF Plan corresponding to such TIF Agreement. If the termination of such TIF Agreement is approved by the Council and Mayor, or by the Council over the Mayor's veto, the owner of the property covered by such TIF Agreement shall forfeit the receipt of any funds or future tax benefits and/or shall return any such funds already received in connection with the project.

In the event the owner of the property challenges a revocation of tax relief, the owner shall set aside an amount equal to the full amount of the tax savings that previously would have accrued under the agreement into an escrow account while any such challenge remains pending. The conditions of the escrow account shall provide that, in the event the owner is unsuccessful in challenging the tax relief revocation, the full amount of the escrow account will be paid to the City. Residents of the City will be acknowledged as third-party beneficiaries of such an agreement and may enforce the agreement's provisions in a civil proceeding brought by not less than 10 taxable inhabitants.

F. Requirements for Successors-in-Interest

The requirements of this Section, including any sanctions imposed herein, that are applicable to any Employer shall also be applicable to, and effective against, any successor Employer that (i) has at least one of the same principals or officers as the prior Employer; and (ii) is engaged in the same or equivalent trade or activity as the prior Employer.

Section 7. Severability

If any provision of this Ordinance is held invalid or unenforceable by any court, such a holding does not invalidate or render unenforceable any other provision of the Ordinance, and the rest of the Ordinance shall remain in full force and effect.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING THE OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
WITHIN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

WHEREAS, Bostonians deserve a City government that is grounded in transparency, and accountable to the people; *and*

WHEREAS, Rather than bringing in costly outside counsel to address concerns as they arise, a City Inspector General will bring permanent, proactive, independent oversight of all Boston's City departments; *and*

WHEREAS, Inspectors General have been appointed at some level or public agency in 34 different states, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and in cities, including Chicago, Detroit, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Baltimore, New York City, Philadelphia, and Richmond; *and*

WHEREAS, An independent Inspector General will be able to identify mismanagement and waste, and address and oversee complaints made against Boston City departments; *and*

WHEREAS, The independent Office of Inspector General will enhance accountability and transparency between City departments and the Boston City Council;

NOW THEREFORE,

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

SECTION 1. The City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter II, is hereby amended by inserting the following new Section after existing Section 2-15:

2-16 OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

2-16.1 Purpose

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish an independent Office of Inspector General

(hereinafter referred to as “the Office”) for the City of Boston to ensure efficiency, quality, honesty, integrity, and transparency in City operations and delivery of services to residents. This Ordinance shall serve to support and bolster the role and work of the Massachusetts Inspector General on the local level. This Ordinance creates a Commission that shall foster investigative, educational, auditing, evaluative, preventative, and contract monitoring procedures to improve the delivery of City services.

2-16.2 Establishment

This Ordinance establishes the Office of the Inspector General and the Commission of General Inspectors (hereinafter referred to as “the Commission”), which will work together to conduct thorough, independent investigations into all matters related to the delivery of City services and support to Boston residents. The Office will focus on investigating fraud, waste, abuse, and mismanagement, and will identify opportunities to enhance efficiency, accountability, compliance, and integrity within the City government, ensuring the effective and responsible use of public resources. All investigatory matters related to appropriations, loans, expenditures, accounts, and other pre-established auditing procedures shall be referred to the appropriate agency.

2-16.3 Commission of General Inspectors

- 1. Appointment.** Commission Members shall be appointed by the Mayor, in accordance with the following recommendations:
 - a.** Membership shall be nominated by or reserved (ex officio) for:
 - i.** One (1) Member of the Auditing Committee.
 - ii.** One (1) Member of the Boston Finance Commission.
 - iii.** One (1) Member of the Boston Municipal Research Bureau.
 - iv.** One (1) Member of the Office of Participatory Budgeting.
 - v.** One (1) Chair of the City Council Committee on Post Audit: Government Accountability, Transparency, and Accessibility.
 - vi.** One (1) Chair of the City Council Committee on Ways and Means.
 - vii.** Two (2) members including a former Inspector General, Auditor, or government accountability officer; a member of relevant professional associations; a law or public policy designee from a Massachusetts institution; a former Massachusetts judge; or an expert who possesses comparable experience in Inspector General duties.
 - viii.** Three (3) members with community engagement expertise.
- 2. Membership.** The Commission shall consist of eleven (11) volunteers who shall be residents of the City of Boston. Commission members shall serve for a five (5)-year term unless otherwise removed. Removal shall be by the Mayor only for cause.
- 3. Terms.**
 - a. Term length and Term Limit.** Commission members shall each serve a term of five (5) years, provided however that of the members first appointed, three (3) shall be appointed for a term of five (5) years, two (2) shall be appointed for a term of four (4) years, two (2) shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years, two (2) shall be appointed for a term of two (2) years, and two (2) shall be

appointed for a term of one (1) year. Thereafter, the Mayor shall appoint each successor for a term of five (5) years. Any vacancy occurring otherwise than by the expiration of a term shall be filled for the unexpired term in the same manner as the position was originally filled. Commission members shall not serve more than two (2) consecutive five (5)-year terms.

- b. *Expiration of Term.*** Should a term expire and a holdover member remains in the role for more than 90 days from the date of expiration, they shall be considered re-appointed for the remainder of the new unexpired term until terminated and replaced pursuant to the Boston City Charter.
- c. *Duties of the Commission.*** The Commission shall monitor the implementation of recommendations and provide feedback to the Inspector General to help with future recommendations. The Commission shall initiate a Quality Assurance Review (“peer review”) in accordance with the standards set by the Association of Inspectors General every three (3) years. The Commission shall appear before the City Council as requested. The Commission shall advise the Mayor on Inspector General candidate selection when requested by the Mayor.

2-16.4 The Inspector General

The Commission shall be overseen by an Inspector General who will facilitate the coordination of audits, reviews, and investigations, and will provide recommendations in accordance with those professional standards that relate to the fields of investigation and auditing in government environments.

- 1. *Appointment.*** The Mayor shall appoint an Inspector General, who shall be a paid employee of the City of Boston, to oversee and run the daily operations and administration of the Commission and the Office. The Inspector General shall serve as the advisor of the Commission, and shall have the powers of a department head with respect to the execution of contracts and matters of personnel management within the Office, including hiring investigative aides.
- 2. *Qualifications.*** The Inspector General shall be selected on the basis of integrity, strong leadership, and demonstrated ability in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, independent government oversight, law, management analysis, public administration, investigation, criminal justice administration, or other appropriate fields in accordance with **Acts of 1909, c. 486, s. 9.**

 - a.** The Inspector General shall hold at the time of appointment, or be required to obtain within one (1) year of the appointment, certification as a Certified Inspector General in accordance with the policies and procedures set forth by the Association of Inspectors General.
- 3. *Term.*** The Inspector General shall serve for a term of 4 years.
- 4. *Limitations.*** The Inspector General may not hold any elective City office until two (2) years after leaving the position and may not have worked for the City as an employee or elected official within two (2) years of appointment.
- 5. *Prohibited Activities.*** During their term, the Inspector General may not engage in an occupation for profit, except for teaching, subject to approval by the Commission, or hold any other government office outside the duties of the Inspector General. The

Inspector General shall not solicit votes or raise monetary or in-kind contributions for any candidate for an elective office.

6. **Removal.** The Inspector General may be removed for cause in accordance with Section 40 of the Boston City Charter.
7. **Office.** The Office shall house the staff necessary to carry out and support the work and purposes of the Office, including the Inspector General, deputies, assistants, and those attorneys, investigators, inspectors, analysts, certified public accountants, and other professionals deemed necessary by the Inspector General. The Office staff shall collectively possess the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to accomplish the Office's mission, duties, and responsibilities. Within budget limitations, the Inspector General may obtain the services of certified public accountants, qualified management consultants, or other professional experts necessary to independently perform the functions of the Office.
8. **Duties of the Office.**
 - a. Receive and review complaints from employees, residents, and business owners in the City of Boston.
 - b. Receive requests for recommendations from City agencies and provide recommendations.
 - c. Perform investigations related to any and all such complaints or initiated by the Inspector General relating to the delivery of City services, operations, programs, and plans.
 - d. Report results of such investigations and make recommendations regarding policies and methods for the elimination of inefficiencies and waste, and the prevention of misconduct to bolster the improvement of City services and operations.
 - e. Review processes and procedures to measure performance.
 - f. Take appropriate steps to build public awareness of the Office and of all procedures established by the Inspector General for receiving complaints. The Office shall provide information, training, and education to City employees about the identification and prevention of fraud, waste, mismanagement and abuse of office in City government.
9. **Professional Standards.** Audits, investigations, inspections, and reviews conducted by the Office will conform to professional standards for Offices of Inspector General such as those promulgated by the Association of Inspectors General.
10. **Annual Report.** The Office shall prepare and publish an annual report of the Office's activities, submit it to the members of the Commission, and file it with the City Clerk.
 - a. The annual report may include recommendations regarding program weakness, contracting irregularities, or other institutional problems discovered by the Office.
 - b. After any redactions required by law, the annual report shall be posted on the Office's website.

2-16.5 Responsibilities

1. Oversee the day-to-day operations of the Office. The Inspector General shall have the power to hire, promote, discipline, and remove employees of the Office as deemed

necessary for the efficient and effective administration of the Office.

2. Identify and address systemic issues impacting the delivery of City services.
3. Monitor and assess the adherence of City departments, officials, and contractors to the highest standards of integrity, transparency, efficiency, and accessibility.
4. Provide actionable recommendations to improve the effectiveness, responsiveness, and transparency of City programs and services.
5. Review and assess policies, practices, and procedures to identify patterns of inefficiency and waste.
6. Conduct, either in response to a complaint or on the Inspector General's own initiative, in order to promote compliance, legality, integrity, transparency, accountability, and proper implementation and management, a review of any part of the City of Boston Code or Boston City Charter.
7. Monitor and assist any covered entity with the implementation of legislation or legislative policy, ensuring such policies comply with applicable laws and reduce opportunities for fraud or abuse. The Inspector General may assign personnel to conduct, supervise, or coordinate such activity.
8. If the Inspector General has probable cause to believe that a covered entity has committed or is committing an illegal act, then they shall promptly refer the matter to the appropriate administrative and prosecutorial authorities. The Inspector General shall continue to participate in referred investigations in compliance with the appropriate authority if asked to do so.
9. Any additional responsibilities as seen fit by the Inspector General.

2-16.6 Powers and Authorities

1. ***Jurisdiction of the Office.*** The powers and duties of the Inspector General shall extend to the conduct of any *covered entity*, subject to applicable law, which shall be defined as: (1) any City employee; (2) any elected official or appointed officer of the City, including heads of City or quasi-governmental departments, agencies, bureaus, and all persons exercising comparable authority; (3) any member of a City or quasi-governmental board or commission; (4) any individual, organization, or business receiving City-granted funds or other benefits, including, but not limited to, loans, grants, tax credits, below market rate property transfers, tax increment financing, payment in lieu of taxes, or other City subsidies of any kind; (5) any individual, organization, or business providing goods or services to the City pursuant to a City contract; (6) any individual, organization, or business seeking certification of eligibility to provide goods or services to the City pursuant to a contract; (7) any individual, organization, or business seeking a City approval, permit, or license; or (8) any City or quasi-governmental department, agency, board, commission, program, or process.
2. ***Authority.*** The Inspector General shall have the authority to:
 - a. Obtain full and unrestricted access to all records, information data, reports, plans, projections, matters, contracts, memoranda, correspondence, and any other materials of covered entities that the Inspector General deems necessary to facilitate an investigation, audit, inspection, or performance review subject to Public Records Law.

- b.* The authority to administer oaths or affirmations and take testimony relevant to any inquiry or investigation undertaken.
 - c.* Reach out to constituents as necessary for investigation, review, or recommendation.
 - d.* Do all things necessary to carry out the functions and duties set forth in this Ordinance.
- 3. *Subpoena Power.***
- a.* The Inspector General may issue subpoenas to require any person to appear under oath as a witness, or the production of any information, document, report, record, account, or other material.
 - b.* The Inspector General shall on behalf of the Commission exercise such authority granted under **M.G.L c.233 s.8** to conduct hearings, subpoena witnesses, compel their attendance, including but not limited to filing contempt proceedings with Superior Court, administer oaths, take the testimony of any person under oath and in connection therewith to require the production for examination of any documents, books, papers, or evidence relating to any matter in question or under investigation by the Inspector General.

2-16.7 Conflict of Interest

When the Inspector General has reason to believe they must recuse themselves from a matter, the Inspector General shall refer such matter to the appropriate investigatory or law enforcement agency.

2-16.8 Entity Duty to Report; Cooperation in Investigations; Obstruction

Any covered entity who has knowledge of, or receives a complaint regarding, an incident of misconduct, malfeasance, misfeasance, conflicts of interest, acceptance of bribes or gratuities, fraud, waste, mismanagement, or abuse of office shall immediately report all relevant information or refer such complaint to the Office.

It shall be the duty of every covered entity to cooperate with the Inspector General in any investigation pursuant to this Ordinance, including the prompt provision to the Inspector General any information, document, report, record, account, or other material requested by the Inspector General in connection with any investigation, audit, or review.

2-16.9 Confidentiality

Subject to any applicable law, audit and investigative files of the Office of Inspector General containing privileged or legally protected information shall be confidential and shall not be divulged to any person or agency, except to the United States Attorney, the Massachusetts Attorney General, or Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, State Inspector General, Boston Finance Commission, or as otherwise required by law.

- 1.* The Office of Inspector General shall implement internal safeguards to restrict access

to ensure confidentiality and shall limit confidential audit and investigative files to authorized personnel only.

2. Unless required by law or judicial processes and subject to the Public Records Law, names and identities of individuals making complaints and information protected by whistleblower or other legislation will not be disclosed without the written consent of the individual.

2-16.10 Retaliation Prohibited

No person employed by, under contract to, or any agent of the City of Boston shall either directly or indirectly take or threaten to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personal action against any individual or employee as reprisal for making a complaint, testifying before, or disclosing information to the Office. Upon notification of such a claim, the Inspector General may conduct an investigation and file a report if there is a finding of fault in accordance with this Ordinance.

2-16.11 Enforcement

The Mayor, the City Council, the Commission, and any governmental or quasi-governmental entity head shall not prevent, impair, or prohibit the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, completing, or reporting on any audit, investigation, or review. Any covered entity that willfully and without justification or excuse obstructs an investigation of the Inspector General by withholding documents or testimony is subject to forfeiture of office, discipline, debarment, or any other applicable penalty.

2-16.12 Severability

SECTION 2. If any provision, clause, part, or application of this chapter is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision, clause, part or application shall be considered separately and apart from the remainder, which shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3. The provisions of this chapter are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect within sixty (60) days of passage.

Filed: January 8, 2025

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**HOME RULE PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW AN ACT RELATIVE TO
REORGANIZATION OF THE BOSTON SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

- WHEREAS,** The Boston School Committee is the governing body of the Boston Public Schools (BPS) and is responsible for defining the vision, mission, and goals of BPS; the annual operating budget; hiring, managing and evaluating the Superintendent; and setting and reviewing district policies and practices; *and*
- WHEREAS,** For over 200 years following the formation of the first 21-member Boston School Committee in 1789, citizens of Boston elected school committees with between five and 116 members; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Upon passage of Chapter 605 of the Acts of 1982, the Boston School Committee was restructured to resemble the composition of the Boston City Council with 13 members total, four members elected at-large and nine elected for each district; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In November 1989, an advisory ballot question asking Boston voters whether the elected school committee should be changed to a Mayor-appointed school committee narrowly passed by a margin of just 670 votes citywide; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 1991, the City of Boston passed a Home Rule Petition, which went on to become Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991, resulting in the first appointed school committee in December 1991 and the consolidation of the powers of the school committee into the office of the Mayor; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Every municipality in Massachusetts, except Boston, elects its school committee; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In November 2021, the voters of Boston overwhelmingly voted to change from the current appointed school committee structure to an elected school committee, with 79 percent—more than 99,000 voters, the majority in every precinct of every ward—of Boston voters supporting an elected body; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Elected school committees place the power of community representation on education matters back into communities, allowing for people from diverse

backgrounds to have their voices heard and for those in power to be held accountable; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:
AN ACT RELATIVE TO REORGANIZATION OF THE BOSTON
SCHOOL COMMITTEE**

Chapter 108 of the Acts of 1991 is hereby stricken and replaced with the following:

Section 1.

Notwithstanding sections one hundred and twenty-eight to one hundred and thirty-four, inclusive, of chapter forty-three of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, the school committee of the City of Boston as presently constituted is hereby restructured and thereafter each member shall be elected or appointed as provided herein.

Section 2.

Subject to the provisions of this act, the existing school committee of the City of Boston shall be dissolved and the composition of the school committee of the City of Boston shall transition to a thirteen member school committee to be phased in as follows:

- a) At the start of the 2025-2026 school year, two (2) non-voting student members shall be selected by the Boston Public Schools student population through a vote of the Boston Student Advisory Council. Both students will be seated with the school committee and allowed to participate in discussion.

- b) The first Tuesday after the first Monday following the municipal election year immediately following passage of this Act a thirteen (13) member school committee composed of nine (9) district members elected in November of the previous year and four (4) members appointed by the Mayor shall be seated. The nine (9) district seats shall correspond to the electoral districts for Boston City Councilors in accordance with districting and residency laws established in Chapter 605 in the Acts of 1982.

- c) The first Tuesday after the first Monday following the second municipal election year

immediately following this Act a thirteen (13) member school committee composed of nine (9) district members and four (4) at-large members elected in November of the previous year shall be seated. The nine (9) district seats shall correspond to the electoral districts for Boston City Councilors in accordance with districting and residency laws established in Chapter 605 in the Acts of 1982.

The members of the school committee shall at all times during their terms of office be Boston residents. No member of the school committee shall hold more than one elected office at the same time. This restriction shall apply to every office which is elected by the qualified voters of the Commonwealth or any political subdivision or part thereof.

Section 3.

All existing powers and duties hitherto exercised by the school committee of the City of Boston, including the powers and duties set forth in chapter 613 of the acts of 1987, shall henceforth be exercised by both the temporary hybrid elected/appointed school committee and, upon formation, the thirteen (13) member elected school committee.

Section 4.

The term of office of the members of the school committee of the City of Boston shall be two (2) years and shall commence on the first day of the municipal year, except for the student members. The student members shall have a term of office of one (1) year and shall commence on June 1 and expire on May 31. Upon the selection, whether by election or appointment, of all members, the City Clerk shall administer the oath of office to the school committee and they shall subscribe in the book kept by the City Clerk in accordance with the provisions of St. 1948, c. 452, s.11A, as amended by Acts of 1951, c. 376 s. 1.11A and as further amended by Acts of 1983, c.342, s.1. The office of each committee member shall become vacant upon the expiration of the term of said member. Any appointed member whose term of office shall expire may be considered for reappointment, but only if renominated by the nominating panel. All member offices excluding the student members shall automatically become vacant on the first Tuesday after the first Monday following the first Boston municipal election immediately following the passage of this Act regardless of unexpired terms. The vacant offices shall be filled by elected school committee members chosen during the Boston municipal elections immediately following passage of this Act. A president of the school committee shall be elected annually by its members at the first meeting in each municipal year. In the event that the president is unable to complete their term, a new president shall be elected by committee members for the unexpired term.

Section 5.

Notwithstanding any special or general law to the contrary, the members of the school

committee of the City of Boston elected or appointed pursuant to this act shall not have the authority to hire personal staff; provided, however, that a paid administrative assistant may be appointed by the president of the school committee.

Section 6.

This section shall only apply to appointed members of the school committee of the City of Boston until the transition to a fully elected committee is complete. Upon which the nominating panel and all appointed members of the school committee of the City of Boston shall be disbanded.

There shall be in the City of Boston a nominating panel composed of thirteen (13) members whose sole function shall be to nominate persons for consideration by the Mayor for appointment to the school committee. Representation on the panel and the selection of said members shall be as follows:

- a) Four parents of children in the Boston Public Schools system as follows: (i) one parent who shall be selected by the Citywide Parents Council; (ii) one parent who shall be selected by the Citywide Educational Coalition; (iii) one parent who shall be selected by the Boston Special Needs Parent Advisory Council; and (iv) one parent who shall be selected by the bilingual education citywide parent advisory council.
- b) One teacher in the Boston Public School system who shall be selected by the Boston Teachers Union from its membership.
- c) One head of school or principal in the Boston Public School system who shall be selected by the Boston Association of School Administrators and Supervisors from its membership.
- d) One representative from the Boston business community as follows: one representative each shall be selected by the private industry council, the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, and Boston Chamber of Commerce from their respective memberships. Such representatives shall serve on a rotating basis as follows: the representative from the private industry council shall serve for the first year of the first term of the nominating panel; the representative from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau shall serve for the second year of the first term of the nominating panel; the representative from the Boston Chamber of Commerce shall serve for the first year of the second term of the nominating panel; and so forth.
- e) One president of a public or private college or university who shall be selected by the chancellor of higher education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- f) One person shall be the Commissioner of Education of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.
- g) Four persons shall be appointed by the Mayor

The members of the nominating panel shall be selected from time to time no later than September thirtieth and shall serve for a term of two (2) years, except as otherwise provided in

this section. In the event that any member does not complete his or her term for any reason, the person or entity who selected such member shall select another person in like manner to complete the unexpired term.

Section 7.

This section shall only apply to appointed members of the school committee of the City of Boston until the transition to a fully elected committee is complete, upon which the nominating panel shall be disbanded.

The nominating panel annually shall from among its membership elect a chairman who shall forthwith file a list of the name and addresses of the members of the panel with the City Clerk. The panel shall meet in public for the sole purpose of deliberating upon, hearing public comment with respect to, and finally selecting a list of nominees to be presented to the Mayor from time to time. Each nominee shall be a resident of Boston at the time of such nomination. The panel shall strive to nominate individuals who reflect the ethnic, racial and socioeconomic diversity of the City of Boston and its public school population.

On the first Wednesday of October of every year the nominating panel shall convene to select not fewer than three (3) but no more than five (5) nominees for each appointed office of school committee members that shall become vacant on the first day of the next municipal year. No later than the first Monday in December of each year, the panel shall present to the Mayor a list containing the names and addresses of the said nominees for each term of office to commence on the first day of the next municipal year; provided, however, should the panel fail to present said list to the Mayor by said first Monday in December, the Mayor shall have the power to appoint any person they deems suitable to the office of school committee for the term to commence in the following January. The Mayor shall strive to appoint individuals who reflect the full diversity of the City of Boston, and its public school population. This includes but is not limited to ethnic, racial, and socioeconomic diversity as well as disability, and LGBTQIA+ representation.

Section 8.

Upon notice provided by the City Clerk that a vacancy exists in the office of any appointed school committee member due to death or resignation, the nominating panel shall convene within ten (10) days of such notice and shall, within thirty (30) days after so convening, select and present to the Mayor a list containing the names and addresses of not fewer than three (3) but not more than five (5) nominees. Within fifteen (15) days after such presentment, the Mayor shall appoint a school committee member to serve the unexpired term of the vacant office; provided, however, should the panel fail to present said list within said thirty (30) days, the Mayor shall have the power to appoint any person they deem suitable to the vacant office to serve said unexpired term. Upon notice provided by the City Clerk that a vacancy exists in the office of any student member appointed school committee member due to personal

circumstances, illness, or resignation, the Boston Student Advisory Council the nominating panel shall convene within one (1) month of such notice and shall, select a replacement student member.

Section 9A.

If at any time a vacancy occurs in the office of school committee-at-large for any cause, the City Clerk shall forthwith notify the school committee thereof; and within fifteen days after such notification, the remaining school committee members shall choose, a school committee member-at-large for the unexpired term, whichever of the defeated candidates for the office of school committee member-at-large at the regular municipal election at which the school committee member-at-large were elected for the term in which the vacancy occurs, who are eligible and willing to serve, received the highest number of votes at such election, provided, however, that the defeated candidate shall have received no less than 20 percent of the total ballots cast for the seat being vacated. For the purpose of this section, the 20 percent minimum threshold shall be calculated as a ratio of votes obtained by the defeated candidate to ballots cast for the office being vacated.

If there is no such defeated candidate eligible and willing to serve, and the vacancy occurs more than one hundred and eighty days prior to a regular municipal election, the City Clerk shall forthwith notify the Boston City Council regarding the vacancy; at the first Boston City Council meeting after the notice has been read, the Boston City Council shall forthwith adopt an order calling a special preliminary election for the purpose of nominating a school committee member-at-large for the unexpired term, which election shall be held on a Tuesday, not less than sixty-two nor more than seventy-six days after the adoption of such order, as the Boston City Council shall in such order fix. The two candidates for school committee member-at-large receiving the greatest number of votes at the special preliminary election shall be deemed nominated and their names shall be placed on the ballot for the special municipal election, which election shall be held twenty-eight days following the special preliminary election.

Section 9B.

If a vacancy occurs in the office of district school committee member more than one hundred and eighty days prior to a regular municipal election, the City Clerk shall forthwith notify the Boston City Council regarding the vacancy; at the first Boston City Council meeting after the notice has been read, the Boston City Council shall forthwith adopt an order calling a special preliminary election for the purpose of nominating a district school committee member for the unexpired term, which election shall be held on a Tuesday, not less than sixty-two nor more than seventy-six days after the adoption of such order, as the Boston City Council shall in such order fix. The two candidates for district school committee member receiving the greatest number of votes at the special preliminary election shall be deemed nominated and their names shall be placed on the ballot for the special municipal election, which election shall be held twenty-eight days following the special preliminary election.

Section 10.

This act shall not be amended or repealed except by special act passed in conformance with article 89 of the amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Section 11.

The provisions of this act shall take effect immediately upon passage.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FOUR

**HOME RULE PETITION
Residential Exemption**

WHEREAS: The residents of the City of Boston are facing increasing financial pressures due to rising housing costs, property taxes, and other economic challenges; **and**

WHEREAS: The current residential exemption, capped at thirty-five percent (35%) of the average assessed value of Class One-Residential parcels, provides critical relief to owner-occupied homeowners, particularly seniors, families on fixed incomes, and others struggling to afford to remain in their homes; **and**

WHEREAS: The residential exemption has proven to be an effective tool in mitigating the tax burden on owner-occupied residential properties and preserving housing affordability for Boston residents; **and**

WHEREAS: The City Council of Boston recognizes the need to expand property tax relief to further support homeowners and prevent displacement in the face of market pressures; **and**

WHEREAS: Increasing the residential exemption beyond the current cap requires an amendment to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5C, to authorize the City of Boston to adopt a higher residential exemption; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:**

The City of Boston hereby petitions the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts to enact the following legislation:

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:

AN ACT AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO INCREASE ITS RESIDENTIAL EXEMPTION

SECTION 1:

Notwithstanding the provisions of Chapter 59, Section 5C, of the General Laws, or any other general or special law to the contrary, the City of Boston is hereby authorized to adopt a residential exemption of up to forty percent (40%) of the average assessed value of all Class One-Residential parcels within the City of Boston.

SECTION 2:

The City of Boston may determine annually the percentage of the residential exemption, provided that it does not exceed forty percent (40%) of the average assessed value of Class One-Residential parcels.

SECTION 3:

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Filed in the City Council on: January 8, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

HOME RULE PETITION

WHEREAS, Boston has 82,036 residents age 65 and older, of its 675,647 residents, according to the U.S. Census Bureau; *and*

WHEREAS, Seniors are more likely to be on a fixed income and have paid off their mortgage payments, thus meaning they are paying their property tax bill directly to the city each quarter; *and*

WHEREAS, As of 2022, the Assessing Department noted there were fewer than 1,000 seniors enrolled in the income-and-asset-restricted senior exemption despite there being more than 4,000 eligible seniors, and enrollment was expected to double if the asset-adjusted exemption passed; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston has seen residential property taxes rise an average of 8.8% for the prior six fiscal years, thus increasing the cumulative financial burden felt by seniors; *and*

WHEREAS, The City Council voted on March 2, 2022, in favor of a home-rule petition that included a section regarding expanding the senior homeowner property tax exemption; *and*

WHEREAS, This City Council voted on March 27, 2024, with 10 votes in favor of resolution reaffirming support for a home-rule petition that included a section regarding expanding the senior homeowner property tax exemption; *and*

WHEREAS, The State expanded the veterans homeowner property tax exemption in August 2024, which the City has enacted for FY26; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston seniors need urgent tax relief; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT RELATIVE TO SENIOR HOMEOWNER PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding clause 41C of section 5 of chapter 59 or any other general or special law to the contrary, with respect to real property in the City of Boston the following factors determining exemption for real property under clause 41C of section 5 of chapter 59 shall be adjusted as follows: (1) increasing the sum of \$500 contained in the first sentence of clause 41C to \$1,500; (2) increasing the amounts contained in subclause (B) of said first sentence whenever they appear in said subclause from \$13,000 dollars and from \$15,000 dollars to fifty percent of Area Median Income as adjusted for household size, as is published annually by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, as required by Section 8 of the Federal Housing Act of 1937 (42 USC Section 1437f), as amended, and the relevant year of the calculation shall be the most recent figure available as of July 1 of the start of the fiscal year to which the exemption is sought; and (3) increasing the amounts contained in subclause (C) of said first sentence whenever they appear in said subclause from \$28,000 dollars to not more than \$80,000 and from \$30,000 to not more than \$110,000. These adjustments shall not be further modified by the second sentence of clause 41C of section 5 of chapter 59.

SECTION 2.

The provisions of this act are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 3.

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Filed on: January 6, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

HOME RULE PETITION

- WHEREAS,** Ranked Choice Voting (RCV) empowers voters to express their preferences more fully by ranking candidates in order of preference, enhancing the expressive quality of the voting process; *and*
- WHEREAS,** RCV ensures that elections are decided by candidates who have broad consensus support, thereby reinforcing the legitimacy and acceptance of election outcomes; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This voting method minimizes strategic voting, as voters can support their preferred candidate without fear that their choice might inadvertently benefit less favored candidates; *and*
- WHEREAS,** RCV can lead to a more diverse group of candidates choosing to run for office, as the system’s inclusive nature reduces barriers to entry by diminishing the fear of marginalization from split allegiances; *and*
- WHEREAS,** RCV encourages candidates to campaign positively and build alliances with other candidates’ supporters to garner second-choice rankings, promoting a more constructive and less adversarial political dialogue; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The flexibility of RCV allows voters to support their true first-choice candidate without concern for electoral viability, fostering a political environment where ideas can be judged on their merit rather than electoral practicality; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Moving from the current “Top-two” to a “Top-four” system can be accomplished with just three simple changes: 1) Promote four, rather than two, candidates from preliminary elections for mayor and district city councilor, 2) Allow voters to rank up to four candidates on their ballot for all general elections for mayor and city councilors, and 3) use standard ranked ballot tabulation methods appropriate to the number of seats being elected; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A “Top-four” system would lower the chances of non-incumbents or newer candidates from theoretically harming another more established candidate’s

chances of winning. When candidates like these do not run, many in the community are disappointed and the democratic process loses what may be an important perspective; *and*

WHEREAS, Studies have shown that RCV can help to reduce polarization in politics by rewarding candidates who can appeal to a wider range of the electorate, thus enhancing overall political stability and satisfaction; *and*

WHEREAS, The adoption of RCV is associated with higher levels of voter engagement and satisfaction, as the system provides a more satisfying and representative voting experience; *and*

WHEREAS, RCV has been adopted across various municipalities and jurisdictions in the United States, including in New York, California, Hawaii, and Maine, demonstrating its versatility and effectiveness in enhancing voter choice and satisfaction, which is evident from its implementation in cities that have seen increased voter engagement and reduced electoral polarization; *and*

WHEREAS, The question of ranked-choice voting was previously on the state ballot in 2020 and ultimately failed, with 55% of Massachusetts voters statewide voting no, yet 62% of Boston residents voted in support of moving to ranked-choice voting; *and*

WHEREAS, The implementation of RCV is a testament to the commitment of a democracy to adapt and evolve its electoral systems to better meet the needs of its citizenry, reflecting a responsive approach to governance; *and*

WHEREAS, Ranked Choice Voting promotes fair and representative elections by allowing voters to rank candidates in order of preference, which supports a more democratic process by enabling the election of candidates who can command a broad consensus among voters, and leads to a higher representation of traditionally underrepresented groups in elected positions, thereby making the electoral process more inclusive and reflective of the community; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of this petition:

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT RELATIVE TO RANKED CHOICE VOTING IN BOSTON

SECTION 1. Definitions.

For the purposes of this Act, the following terms have the following meanings:

1. “Active candidate,” any candidate who has not been eliminated or elected, and is not a withdrawn or deceased candidate.
2. “Election threshold,” the number of votes sufficient for a candidate to be elected in a multi-winner election.
3. “Highest-ranked active candidate,” the active candidate assigned to a higher ranking than any other active candidate.
4. “Ranking,” the number available to be assigned by a voter to a candidate to express the voter’s preference for that candidate. The number “1” is the highest ranking, followed by “2” and then “3” and so on.
5. “Round,” an instance of the sequence of voting tabulation described in section 3(a) for single-winner contests or section 3(b) for multi-winner contests.
6. “Withdrawn candidate,” a candidate who has filed (or had an authorized designee file) a signed letter of withdrawal prior to election day according to Massachusetts law, and where a certificate of substitution has not been filed according to Massachusetts law to fill the vacancy.
7. “Deceased candidate” means a candidate who has died after five o’clock in the afternoon on the twelfth Tuesday preceding the preliminary election, and where a certificate of substitution has not been filed according to Massachusetts law to fill the vacancy.

SECTION 2. General Provisions.

- (a) Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, or any other general or special law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, all regular and special elections in the city of Boston for the positions of mayor and district city councillor involving three or more qualified candidates, and all regular elections for the position of city councillor-at-large, shall be conducted by ranked choice voting. In any contest using ranked choice voting, the general election ballot shall allow voters to rank four candidates, including write-in lines, in order of preference.
- (b) Section 64 of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as so appearing in section 2 of chapter 376 of the Acts of 1951, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 4, the words “blank spaces equal to the number for which a voter may vote for such office” and inserting in place thereof the following words:

blank spaces equal to the number of seats to be elected to such office.

- (c) Section 15 of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as so appearing in section 1 of chapter 233 of the Acts of 1993, is hereby amended by adding between the first sentence and the second sentence the following sentence:

The number of votes a defeated candidate received shall be the number of votes the candidate had in the last round of tabulation before the candidate was eliminated, as described by Section 3(b) of this Act and any implementing regulations.

- (d) Section 59 of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as so appearing in section 9 of chapter 342 of the Acts of 1983, is hereby amended by deleting the first two sentences in their entirety and by replacing them with the following sentences:

At every election conducted by ranked choice voting, each voter shall be entitled to submit one vote with up to four rankings for each office. At every other municipal election, each voter shall be entitled to vote for not more than one candidate for the office of mayor and district city councillor and not more than four candidates for the office of city councillor-at-large. The elections commission shall establish rules for what instructions shall be printed on the ballot to inform voters how to fill out the ballot.

SECTION 3. Preliminary Elections.

- (a) Section 57C of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as so appearing in section 7 of chapter 342 of the Acts of 1983, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 22, the word “two” and inserting in place thereof the following word:- four.
- (b) Section 61 of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as so appearing in section 2 of chapter 376 of the Acts of 1951, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 1, the word “two”, and inserting in place thereof the following word:-four.
- (c) Said section 61 of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as so appearing, is hereby further amended by striking out, in line 19, the words “twice the number to be elected”, and by inserting in place thereof the following words:

the number of names that would have been printed in the event of no tie vote.

- (d) Section 15A of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as so appearing in section 1 of chapter 233 of the Acts of 1993, is hereby amended by striking out, in line 7 the word “two”, and inserting in place thereof the following word:- four.

SECTION 4. Tabulation of Ranked Choice Ballots.

Notwithstanding the provisions of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, or any other general or special law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, votes in ranked choice voting contests shall be tabulated as follows:

(a) Single-Winner Tabulation. In all contests for mayor and district city councillor conducted by ranked choice voting, each ballot shall count as one vote for the highest-ranked active candidate on that ballot. The candidate with the greatest number of votes at the end of tabulation is elected. Tabulation shall proceed in rounds as follows:

- (1) If there are more than two active candidates, the active candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, and votes for the eliminated candidate are counted for each ballot's next-ranked active candidate.
- (2) If there are two or fewer active candidates, tabulation is complete.

(b) Multi-Winner Tabulation. In all contests for city councillor-at-large conducted by ranked choice voting, each ballot shall count in whole or in part for the highest-ranked active candidate on that ballot. The election threshold shall be determined by dividing the number of votes cast by five, rounding down to the nearest whole number, and adding one. Tabulation shall proceed in rounds. Any candidate who receives a number of votes equal to or exceeding the election threshold shall be declared elected. If a candidate exceeds the election threshold, the excess part of each vote received by that candidate shall instead be counted for each ballot's next-ranked active candidate. When a candidate is eliminated, votes shall be counted for each ballot's next-ranked active candidate. The election commission shall establish and publish uniform rules and best practices for the administration of multi-winner ranked choice voting contests.

(c) Treatment of Ballots.

- (1) An undervote is a ballot that does not rank any candidates in a particular contest. An undervote does not count as an active or inactive ballot in any round of tabulation of that contest.
- (2) An inactive ballot is a ballot that ceases in a round of tabulation to count for any candidate for the remainder of the tabulation of the contest because either:
 - (A) All candidates ranked on the ballot have become inactive; or
 - (B) The ballot includes an overvote and any candidates ranked higher than the overvote have become inactive. An overvote occurs when a voter ranks more than one candidate at the same ranking.
- (3) During tabulation, a ballot shall remain active and continue to count for its highest-ranked active candidate notwithstanding any skipped or repeated rankings on the ballot. A skipped ranking occurs when a voter leaves a ranking unassigned but ranks a candidate at a subsequent ranking. A repeated ranking occurs when a voter ranks the same candidate at multiple rankings.

(d) Ties. If two or more candidates are tied with the fewest votes, and tabulation cannot continue until the candidate with the fewest votes is eliminated, then the

candidate with the fewest votes in the prior round shall be defeated. If two or more such tied candidates were tied in the prior round, the second tie shall be decided by referring similarly to the number of votes for each candidate in the second-prior round. This process shall be applied successively as many times as necessary. The election commission shall establish a method of tiebreaking that will be used if two or more candidates are tied with the fewest votes in the first round of tabulation.

SECTION 5. Results Reporting.

Notwithstanding the provisions of section 60 of chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as so appearing in section 2 of chapter 376 of the Acts of 1951; or any other general or special law, rule, or regulation to the contrary, votes in ranked choice voting contests shall be reported as follows:

- (a) **Unofficial Results.** The election commission shall promulgate rules or guidance to ensure the release of unofficial results after the polls close, including round-by-round results, which shall be first released as soon as a reasonable number of precincts have reported but shall make the best effort to provide by 11:59PM on election night.
- (b) **Final Results.** In addition to any other information required by law to be reported with official final results, the election commission shall make public:
 - (1) the number and percentage of votes that each candidate received in each round of the official tabulation; and
 - (2) the number of ballots that became inactive in each round for the reasons set out in section 3(c)(2), reported as separate figures.

SECTION 6. Regulatory Authority.

The election commission shall have the authority to promulgate whatever rules are necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 7. Severability.

If any provision of this Act, or the application of any provision of this Act to any person, office, or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act and the application of its provision to any person, office, or circumstance, shall not be affected by the holding.

SECTION 8. Voter Acceptance and Effective Date.

The following question shall be placed on the ballot to be used at a regular state or municipal election or a special election called for the purpose of presenting the question to the voters:

Shall an act entitled "An Act to Implement Ranked Choice Voting for the City of Boston" be accepted?

The city law department shall prepare the summary of the question, which shall appear on the ballot along with the question provided in this section.

If a majority of votes cast in answer to the question is in the affirmative, the city shall be taken to have accepted the Act, but not otherwise. The Act shall take effect immediately upon approval of said question; provided, however, that it shall be applicable only to municipal elections in which the regular or special election for that contest is 365 days or more after the day the Act is accepted.

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

HOME RULE PETITION TO ESTABLISH THE COMMISSION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL ON FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

WHEREAS, Bostonians deserve a City government that is grounded in transparency, and accountable to the people; *and*

WHEREAS, Rather than bringing in costly outside counsel to address concerns as they arise, a City Inspector General will bring permanent, proactive, independent oversight of all Boston's City departments; *and*

WHEREAS, Inspectors General have been appointed at some level or public agency in 34 different states, including the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and in cities, including Chicago, Detroit, Washington, D.C., New Orleans, Baltimore, New York City, Philadelphia, and Richmond; *and*

WHEREAS, An independent Inspector General will be able to identify mismanagement and waste, and address and oversee complaints made against Boston City departments; *and*

WHEREAS, The office of the independent Inspector General will enhance accountability and transparency between City departments and the Boston City Council ; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT TO AMENDING THE OPERATIONS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON FINANCE COMMISSION TO ESTABLISH THE COMMISSION OF INSPECTORS GENERAL ON FINANCIAL OVERSIGHT

SECTION 1. *Section 17 of Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909* is hereby amended by striking the paragraph in its entirety and inserting the following section:-

SECTION 17. *Appointment of the Boston Finance and Oversight Commission.*

In the City of Boston there shall be a Commission consisting of 5 persons, inhabitants of and qualified voters in the City of Boston, who shall have been such for at least 3 years prior to the date of their appointment. Members shall serve without compensation and be individuals with experience or expertise in investigations, auditing, administrative law, accounting, performance measurements, public policy, community engagement, or other relevant expertise. Members shall be appointed by the Governor, with one member appointed for the term of 5 years, one member for 4 years, one member for 3 years, one member for 2 years, and one member for 1 year, and thereafter as the terms of office expire in each year one member for a term of 5 years. Vacancies in the Commission shall be filled for the unexpired term by the Governor. The members of said commission may be removed by the Governor for cause.

SECTION 2. *Section 18 of Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909* is hereby amended by striking the paragraph in its entirety and inserting the following section: -

SECTION 18. *Duties of the Commission.* The Commission shall appoint an Inspector General following a majority vote of its members who shall serve a 5-year term. The Commission shall consider candidates who meet qualifications such as expertise in accounting, auditing, financial analysis, independent government oversight, law, management analysis, public administration, investigation, criminal justice administration, or other appropriate fields. The Inspector General must hold or obtain a nationally recognized certification as a Certified Inspector General.

Additional duties of the Commission shall include reviewing reports produced by the Inspector General upon request; monitoring the implementation of recommendations and providing feedback to the Inspector General; initiating a nationally recognized Quality Assurance Review (“peer review”) every 3 years; coming before the City Council upon request; reviewing the annual budget proposed by the Inspector General.

SECTION 3. *Section 19 of Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909* is hereby amended by striking the paragraph in its entirety and inserting the following section: -

SECTION 19. *Duties of the Inspector General.* The Inspector General shall have the authority to: conduct investigations on all matters related to the finances of the City, including appropriations, debt, loans, taxation, expenditures, bookkeeping, and Administration, particularly concerning fraud, waste, abuse, mismanagement that require examination to ensure transparency, efficiency, accountability, responsibility, integrity, and compliance with applicable laws; as well as to review the policies, practices, and procedures related to these matters to identify areas for improvement.

The Inspector General shall foster investigative, educational, auditing, evaluative, preventative, and contract monitoring procedures to improve the delivery of City services, strengthen accountability, and enhance operational effectiveness, all while adhering to professional standards for Offices of Inspector General, such as those established by the AIG. To facilitate its work, the Inspector General shall engage directly with constituents as necessary to gather information for investigations, reviews, or recommendations and shall take appropriate steps to build public awareness of its purpose, processes, and procedures for receiving complaints.

The Inspector General shall have the authority to initiate investigations based on complaints from employees, residents, and business owners or, at its discretion, to address inefficiencies, waste, misconduct, abuse, or mismanagement in City operations, services, and programs.

The Inspector General shall prepare and publish an annual report of the Commission and file it with the City Clerk. The annual report may include recommendations regarding program weakness, contracting irregularities, or other institutional problems discovered by the Inspector General. The annual report shall be made available publicly online by March 1st of each year. The Inspector General shall appear in front of the City Council annually and upon request.

SECTION 4. *Section 20 of Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909* is hereby amended by striking the paragraph in its entirety and inserting the following section: -

SECTION 20. *Employment of Experts.* The Commission shall upon request of the Inspector General, employ a number of Deputy Investigators to carry out and support the work and purposes of the Commission. The Commission will present said request to the Mayor for their review and all investigators thereafter employed shall receive stipends as determined by the Mayor commensurate with their duties and/or expenses. Employed staff shall collectively possess the knowledge, skills, and experience needed to accomplish the Commission's mission, duties, and responsibilities.

SECTION 5. *Section 21 of Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909* is hereby amended by striking the paragraph in its entirety and inserting the following section: -

SECTION 21. Powers of the Commission and Enforcement. For the purpose of enabling the said commission to perform the duties and carry out the objects herein contemplated by this act, the Commission, by and through the Inspector General, is hereby empowered to inspect all City records and inquire into the management of the business of said City, and to inform itself as to the manner and methods in which the same is or has been conducted and is further authorized to summon witnesses pursuant to M.G.L c.233 s. 8.

Subject to any applicable law, auditing, investigative, and evaluative files of the Commission containing privileged or legally protected information shall be confidential and shall not be divulged to any person or agency except to the United States Attorney, the Massachusetts Attorney General, or Suffolk County District Attorney's Office, State Inspector General, or as otherwise required by law. The Commission shall implement internal safeguards to restrict access to ensure confidentiality and limit confidential auditing, investigative, and evaluative files to authorized personnel only. Subject to Public Records law, names and identities of individuals making complaints and information protected under law will not be disclosed without the individual's written consent unless required by law or judicial processes.

No person employed by, under contract to, or any agent of the City of Boston shall either directly or indirectly, take or threaten to take, direct others to take, recommend, or approve any personal action against any individual or employee as reprisal for making a complaint, testifying before, or disclosing information to the Commission and their staff. Upon notification of such a claim, the Inspector General may conduct an investigation in accordance with this Chapter.

The Mayor, the City Council, the Commission, and any governmental or quasi-governmental entity head shall not prevent, impair, or prohibit the Inspector General from initiating, carrying out, or completing any audit, investigation, review, or evaluation. Any covered entity that willfully and without justification or excuses obstructs an investigation of the Inspector General by withholding documents or testimony is subject to forfeiture of office, discipline, debarment, or any other applicable penalty.

Anyone who knows of or receives a complaint regarding misconduct, malfeasance, misfeasance, conflicts of interest, acceptance of bribes or gratuities, fraud, waste, or abuse of office should immediately report all relevant information or refer such complaint to the Commission. It should be the duty of every covered entity to cooperate with the Inspector General in any investigation pursuant to this Chapter, including the prompt provision to the Inspector General any information, document, report, record, account, or other material requested by the Inspector General in connection with an investigation, audit, review, or evaluation.

The Inspector General may not hold any elected City office until two (2) years after leaving the position and may not have worked for the City as an employee or

elected official within two (2) years of appointment. During their term, the Inspector General may not engage in an occupation for profit, except for teaching, subject to the approval of the Commission, or hold any other government office outside the duties of the Inspector General. The Inspector General shall not solicit votes or raise monetary or in-kind contributions for any candidate for an elective office. The Inspector General may be removed for cause. All employees of the commission are subject to M.G.L. 268A.

When the Inspector General has reason to believe they must recuse themselves from a matter, the Inspector General shall refer such matter to the appropriate investigatory or law enforcement agency.

SECTION 6.

The provisions of this act are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7.

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Filed on: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

HOME RULE PETITION

- WHEREAS*, Boston remains one of the last major rental markets where prospective tenants are commonly required to pay broker fees, in addition to first and last month’s rent and a security deposit—costs that can be equivalent to four months’ rent; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The shortage of housing stock in the Greater Boston area enables property owners to pass broker fees onto tenants, even when tenants did not solicit these services, worsening inequities in a market where renters face limited options; *and*
- WHEREAS*, According to The Boston Foundation’s 2024 *Greater Boston Housing Report Card*, half of all renters in the region are cost-burdened, with increasing numbers of renter households spending over 30 percent of their income on rent; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Real estate brokers and salespersons who negotiate agreements for the sale, rental, or lease of property are regulated under sections 87PP to 87DDD1/2 of chapter 112 of the Massachusetts General Laws and Title 254 of the Code of Massachusetts Regulations (CMR), which includes requirements for written disclosure of broker fees to prospective tenants under 254 CMR 7.00; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Studies continue to expose systemic housing discrimination by real estate brokers: *Qualified Renters Need Not Apply* (2020) by The Boston Foundation and Suffolk University Law School found brokers perpetuate inequities and recommended eliminating broker fees; the *2023 Fair Housing Trends Report* by the National Fair Housing Alliance documented record housing discrimination complaints, including rental-related racial bias; and investigations by the Housing Rights Initiative revealed widespread discriminatory practices; *and*
- WHEREAS*, In February 2020, the Mayor of the City of Boston announced a working group to study the impact of broker fees on the Boston rental market; however, the COVID-19 pandemic prevented its appointment before its work began; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Legislative proposals to prohibit tenant-paid broker fees for landlord-requested services emphasize affordability and flexibility by reducing upfront costs and alleviating financial barriers, while also promoting renter protections and equitable practices by requiring licensed brokers or salespersons to contract with only one party—either a tenant or a landlord—and ensuring broker fees are paid solely by the party engaging the broker, fostering transparency and fairness in rental housing transactions; *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston, to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only: —

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:
AN ACT REQUIRING THAT BROKER FEES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON
BE PAID BY THE PARTY WHO SOLICITS A LICENSED BROKER**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, in the city of Boston, any person who performs real estate brokerage activities and is licensed or registered pursuant to sections 87PP to 87DDD1/2, inclusive, of chapter 112 of the General Laws may solely contract with a prospective tenant to find for rent residential or commercial real estate property for a tenant and present an offer to lease to the landlord or landlord's agent and negotiate on behalf of the tenant or may solely contract with a landlord or landlord's agent to find a tenant for a property. Any fee shall only be paid by the party, lessor or tenant who originally engaged and entered into a contract with the licensed broker or salesperson.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

Filed on: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Hearing Order to Address Growing Concerns Over the White Stadium Project Costs, Community Input, and Transparency

WHEREAS, The White Stadium project in Franklin Park is a public asset intended to serve the Boston community, and recent developments regarding its cost and governance have raised significant concerns among residents; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Michelle Wu has acknowledged that the costs of the White Stadium project have doubled, with taxpayers expected to shoulder half of the burden, raising serious questions about fiscal responsibility and prioritization; and

WHEREAS, The current 30-year agreement associated with this project effectively places a public asset under private control, potentially limiting public access and displacing Boston Public School sports teams that rely on the stadium.; and

WHEREAS, Opponents of the project have expressed significant concerns about the city's willingness to commit taxpayer funds without clear limits, creating uncertainty about the final cost and accountability; and

WHEREAS, The process leading to the approval of the White Stadium project has been criticized for its lack of transparency and rushed decision-making, leaving many Boston residents and stakeholders feeling excluded from meaningful participation; and

WHEREAS, Boston has demonstrated the ability to identify funding for other significant public projects, such as the recent \$35 million investment in the Clougherty Pool, indicating that alternative funding approaches should be explored for White Stadium to avoid costly private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Residents from neighborhoods across Boston have continued to raise concerns about the potential long-term financial burden and the displacement of community sports and events due to the privatization of White Stadium; and

WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for clarity and accountability regarding the total projected costs of this project and its implications for Boston taxpayers and public access;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, That the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to examine the growing concerns surrounding the escalating costs of the White Stadium project, the impact on Boston Public Schools and community sports teams, and the long-term implications of the 30-year agreement with private interests; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That the hearing will seek to:

1. Provide a full accounting of the projected and actual costs of the White Stadium project to date, including the sources of funding and anticipated future expenses borne by taxpayers.
2. Examine the process by which the 30-year agreement was negotiated, including opportunities for public input and transparency measures.
3. Explore alternative solutions for funding and maintaining White Stadium as a public asset without ceding control to private entities.
4. Evaluate the impact of the project on Boston Public School sports teams and other community groups currently utilizing White Stadium.
5. Solicit feedback and recommendations from residents, community leaders, and stakeholders on how to ensure equitable access and sustainable use of White Stadium.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That representatives from the Mayor's Office, Boston Public Schools, the Parks and Recreation Department, relevant private partners, and community organizations be invited to provide testimony at the hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That the Boston City Council is committed to ensuring fiscal accountability, transparency, and the preservation of public spaces for the benefit of all Boston residents.

Filed on the 8th day of January, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' FY26 BUDGET

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools' Fiscal Year 2025 budget totals more than \$1.5 billion; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools' Fiscal Year 2026 budget will be the first budget in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic to not include any ESSER funding; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools Superintendent Mary Skipper will present the FY26 budget to the School Committee on the first Wednesday of February; *and*

WHEREAS, For Fiscal Year 2025, the City Council worked collaboratively with Boston Public Schools starting in January to allow more advocacy from the Council before the School Committee approved the budget in March; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston School Committee remains an unelected body, despite a 2021 non-binding resolution that was supported by 79 percent of Boston voters, thus leaving the City Council as the only direct district-level line from constituents to the Boston Public Schools budget; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools is committed to creating a physical budget book for Fiscal Year 2026, which will be similar to BPS budget books from last decade and will allow for more public transparency earlier in the budget process; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools began actively working on the Fiscal Year 2026 budget starting in the fall of 2024, and the City Council engaged with Boston Public Schools starting in November 2024 to better advocate for priorities of the students in FY26; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the Ways & Means Committee of the Boston City Council hold a committee meeting in February, a working session in early March, multiple hearings in April, and that representatives of Boston Public Schools and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BPS' PLANS TO
PROTECT STUDENTS DURING HEAT EMERGENCIES

WHEREAS, Boston is experiencing earlier, hotter, longer, and more frequent heat emergencies; *and*

WHEREAS, The impacts of extreme heat are most dangerous for our seniors and our youth; *and*

WHEREAS, Ten Boston Public Schools, including Bates Elementary, Otis Elementary, Mather Elementary, Kenny Elementary, Lee Academy, Charles H. Taylor, Melvin H. King Middle, Melvin H. King High, Community Academy, and Mozart Elementary, are not equipped with adequate cooling systems, instead relying upon open windows and fans to keep facilities cool; *and*

WHEREAS, Several of these facilities are utilized during the summer months; *and*

WHEREAS, Nearly all of these schools are housed in environmental justice communities; *and*

WHEREAS, According to BPS data, the temperature inside schools such as Lee Academy without these systems have reached over 90 degrees; *and*

WHEREAS, Exposure to these high temperatures for extended periods of time puts students' and faculties' health and wellbeing at risk; *and*

WHEREAS, Three years ago, Boston Public Schools only had 35 school buildings with air conditioning, and now there are 109 schools with cooling systems, showing progress can be made when there's a concerted effort; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a plan for some of the 10 schools, but there has yet to be a clear plan some of the remaining schools; *and*

WHEREAS, An immediate plan for installing AC in all remaining BPS schools, or outlining other ways to mitigate the heat, must be enacted in order to ensure the safety of all students; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss plans to ensure all schools have the HVAC systems necessary to provide a safe, comfortable learning and teaching environment year-round and that

contingency plans are in place during the interim period and that representatives from Boston Public Schools and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE DISTRIBUTION OF BOSTON'S 225 NEW LIQUOR LICENSES AND PROVIDE ONGOING SUPPORT TO RESTAURATEURS

WHEREAS, Gov. Maura Healey signed into law a bill that created 225 new liquor licenses in Boston, following the passage of a home-rule petition by the Boston City Council in 2023; *and*

WHEREAS, The 225 liquor licenses—consisting of Neighborhood Non-Transferable Licenses, Community Space Licenses, and Citywide Transferable Licenses—represent a nearly unprecedented opportunity to drive economic development, particularly in the 13 designated ZIP Codes such as Mattapan, Dorchester, and Roxbury, which have historically lacked access to sit-down restaurants; *and*

WHEREAS, The initial deadline for the first round of liquor license applications closed on December 6, 2024, and the City's Licensing Board has begun reviewing submissions based on public need, economic development, and cultural vibrancy criteria with the hopes of awarding the first batch of licenses by March 31, 2025; *and*

WHEREAS, It is critical to provide regular updates on the progress of license distribution, including transparency on the awarded applicants, their impact on local communities, and plans for future rounds of applications; *and*

WHEREAS, The City must continue to ensure equity in the application process by expanding informational sessions, business support resources, and licensing guidance tailored for entrepreneurs in underrepresented neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, These support systems, including multilingual resources, application tutorials, and outreach efforts, should be offered consistently both in-person, online, and at accessible times to maximize participation from diverse restaurateurs; *and*

WHEREAS, The City should sustain ongoing marketing and outreach efforts to inform existing and aspiring small business owners about these opportunities and help them navigate the licensing process; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold an annual hearing to review the status and impact of the 225 new liquor licenses, ensure transparency in the distribution process, and explore continued support

mechanisms such as informational sessions, business guidance, and community outreach to maximize equitable access and economic growth in Boston's neighborhoods.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BOSTON STUDENTS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ALL FORMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston, a pioneer in public and higher education, has been at the forefront for nearly 400 years, predating the founding of the United States; and
and
- WHEREAS,** The enduring value and significance of a high-quality education have only grown over time; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston Public Schools (BPS) serve a diverse student body, with approximately 44% Hispanic/Latino, 28% African American/Black, 9% Asian, and 15% White students, many of whom face historical and ongoing structural disparities limiting their access to high-quality educational opportunities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** More than half of low-income college students drop out due to the exorbitant costs of educational opportunities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Black families in Massachusetts, with an average income of \$66,792, and Latinx families, with an average income of \$54,226, face financial challenges compared to their White non-Hispanic counterparts earning an average of \$97,665, reducing the ability to seek family assistance for educational financing; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City currently provides tuition support for 75 students, offering up to \$2,500 per year, which comprises less than 7% of the current cost to attend UMass Boston or UMass Amherst and less than 5% of the current cost to attend Boston University or Northeastern University; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Students can reasonably expect to spend \$700-\$1,000 on books alone per year in college; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to the Greater Boston Food Bank, 37% of public university students in Boston experience food insecurity, rising to 52% for Black students, 47% for Latinx students, 46% for LGBTQ+ students, and 53% for student-parents *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2019-20, 56% of Massachusetts college graduates had some student debt, averaging \$33,457, the eighth-highest nationwide, according to data compiled by the Institute for College Access and Success; *and*

WHEREAS, Programs like the Menino Scholarship at Boston University and the Boston Public High School Scholarship at Northeastern University provide full-tuition awards to a limited number of Boston Public School graduates annually, highlighting the need for expanded scholarship opportunities to meet the growing demand and rising costs of higher education; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston’s major educational institutions, including Boston University and Northeastern University, benefit significantly from their tax-exempt status under the PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) program, and engaging these institutions to expand their existing scholarship programs would further their commitment to Boston residents and help address financial barriers faced by Boston students; *and*

WHEREAS, Enhanced investments in scholarships and tuition assistance will not only create pathways to higher education but also equip Boston’s students with the tools to secure higher-paying jobs, contributing to the city’s economic growth and workforce development; *and* **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore providing Boston students with increased tuition assistance, as well as ways in which our community partners, institutions, and businesses may collaborate to ensure all Boston students can access high-quality educational opportunities. Representatives from the Center for Working Families, Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Workforce Development, Youth Employment and Opportunity, Youth Engagement and Advancement, and other relevant and interested parties are invited to attend.

Filed on: January 3, 2025



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

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL AND TANIA FERNANDES
ANDERSON



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE THE SUMMER COMMUNITY PLAN

WHEREAS, Boston experiences violence year-round that contributes to ongoing community trauma; *and*

WHEREAS, Summer employment, internship, enrichment, and athletic opportunities promote healthy development, protect against summer learning loss, and deter community violence; *and*

WHEREAS, The city should plan around Community Response Policing, restart programs such as Community Ambassadors, expand BPHC's Men's Health Initiative, expand youth jobs, and more; *and*

WHEREAS, The City currently has the opportunity to ensure that municipal assets like pools, parks, and BCYF centers are in a state of good repair and appropriately staffed to provide summer programming for youth; *and*

WHEREAS, The City can forge stronger partnerships with various non-profits such as Boys and Girls Club, Boston Afterschool and Beyond, the Boston Project Ministry that provides summer activities and resources to youth; *and*

WHEREAS, For summer 2025, the City needs to be proactive so that everyone is protected from gun violence and violence of all kinds; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss summer violence and explore ways to strengthen community-driven reporting and that representatives from Boston Centers for Youth & Families, Youth Engagement & Advancement, the Boston Police Department, Office of Public Safety, Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Housing Authority, the Neighborhood Watch Unit, interested community organizations, and community members be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL AND SHARON DURKAN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO BRING NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND AND MLB ALL-STAR GAME TO BOSTON

WHEREAS, Basketball was invented in Massachusetts in 1891; and

WHEREAS, Boston professional sports teams have won 13 championship titles since 1999, more than any other city; and

WHEREAS, Boston has not hosted a professional All-Star Game since the Boston Red Sox hosted the 1999 MLB All-Star Game and has not hosted the NBA All-Star Game since 1964; and

WHEREAS, That 1964 All-Star Game was historic for sports unions because a pregame players' strike vote spearheaded by Bill Russell led to the NBA Players Association being recognized as the first major sports union in the country; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Celtics have won 18 Championships since their founding –11 of which were won after the last Boston-hosted All-Star Game; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Celtics have consistently pursued racial equity, being the first team to draft a Black player with Chuck Cooper in 1950, the first team to have an all-Black starting lineup in 1964, and the first NBA team to hire a black head coach when they named Bill Russell player/coach in 1966; and

WHEREAS, Bill Russell, a legendary basketball player who played center for the Boston Celtics from 1956 to 1969, was the centerpiece of the Celtics dynasty that won 11 NBA championships during his 13-year career; and

WHEREAS, The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission analysis indicates that the 2022 NBA All-Star Game attracted \$141.4 million in direct spending, generated \$248.9 million in total economic impact, produced \$50 million in earned media value, and received \$11.9 billion in total media reach; and

WHEREAS, The 2022 NBA All-Star Game attracted 121,600 people from 45 states and 24 countries; and

WHEREAS, This attention would provide the City of Boston an opportunity to highlight its many diverse neighborhoods and support local businesses by hosting extended festivities and celebrations throughout the City; and

WHEREAS, Hosting the All-Star Game will require equitable contracting and procurement practices to ensure MWBE participation; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Celtics are preparing a bid to host the NBA All-Star Weekend, demonstrating a commitment to showcasing the city's sports legacy; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Celtics are expected to be sold in 2025, thus marking a new era of ownership; and

WHEREAS, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver stated that he would "encourage" Boston's application; and

WHEREAS, In contrast, the NBA All-Star Game is returning to Southern California in 2026, with the game featuring the NBA's best scheduled to be held at the Intuit Dome, the future home of the Los Angeles Clippers in Inglewood, marking the seventh time the All-Star Game will be hosted in the Los Angeles area; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Red Sox have won 9 World Series titles, including four this century, the most of any franchise in the 21st century; and

WHEREAS, Boston has hosted four MLB All-Star Games, including one at Braves Field (1936), now Nickerson Field, and three at Fenway Park (1946, 1961, 1999); and

WHEREAS, The 1999 MLB All-Star Game included iconic moments such as Mark McGwire's Home Run Derby performance, Pedro Martinez's 2-inning, 5-strikeout performance, and the pregame meeting of Ted Williams as part of the All-Century team nominees; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Red Sox are exploring a bid for the 2029 MLB All-Star Game; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address improvements needed to bolster the City's application standing and ensure preparations are done equitably, and that representatives from the Boston Celtics; Boston Red Sox; Public Works; Small Business Development; Tourism, Sports, & Entertainment; Transportation; and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO CREATE INDOOR PLAYGROUNDS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** Physical activity benefits not just physical but also mental health and social development; and
- WHEREAS,** Physical activity can improve academic performance, particularly in enhancing math skills; and
- WHEREAS,** Access to recreational opportunities is a recognized determinant of equity; and
- WHEREAS,** Boston experiences both dangerously low and dangerously high temperatures that prevent residents from using outdoor facilities; and
- WHEREAS,** Few commercial indoor play spaces exist within the city and access fees for these facilities are often cost-prohibitive; and
- WHEREAS,** Indoor play facilities serve as community centers, frequently hosting parties and celebrations; and
- WHEREAS,** Boston is in dire need of family-friendly facilities to revitalize both downtown neighborhoods and districts long underserved neighborhoods; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the creation of municipal indoor playgrounds and that representatives from Boston Centers for Youth & Family, Parks & Recreation, and other relevant and interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Hearing to Discuss the Creation of Cultural Districts in Boston

WHEREAS: Boston is the sixth most diverse city in the United States, and it owes its rich history of arts, music, culture, cuisine, and innovation to the contributions of peoples all across the globe; and

WHEREAS: Boston is home to one of the largest diasporas of Caribbean, Cape Verdean, Brazilian, Arab, Irish, Italian, Korean, Jewish, Polish, Portuguese, Vietnamese, Indian, Chinese, and British peoples in the world among many additional cultures; and

WHEREAS: Boston should recognize, embrace, and educate on the cultures of its residents as well as the city's complex history of immigration and first-nations peoples; and

WHEREAS: The State of Massachusetts authorized the creation of Cultural Districts in 2011 to foster local cultural development, encourage business development, and establish the district as a tourist destination; and

WHEREAS: A review of Pittsburgh's cultural district shows that the number of events hosted has more than doubled, helping to generate \$33 million in public investment, \$63 million in private and philanthropic investment, and \$115 in commercial activity; and

WHEREAS: This district's tax revenues increased from \$7.9 million to \$19.1 million in only eight years; and

WHEREAS: Boston is currently home to two cultural districts based on the larger ethnicity of the neighborhood forming central hubs for vibrant immigrant communities with the Latin Quarter Cultural District in Hyde/Jackson Square dedicated to Latino residents and Little Saigon in Fields Corner for our Vietnamese residents; and

WHEREAS: A cultural district will enhance the ability for immigrant communities to grow, develop economic opportunities, interact with other communities, and share their rich culture while building a more vibrant Boston; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the creation of a ethnic Cultural Districts in Boston, and that representatives from the Department of Arts and Culture and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING PROVIDING TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS AND OUTLINING BEST PRACTICES FOR CIVIC ASSOCIATIONS

WHEREAS, The Mayor, Council, and City rely heavily on the organizing strength of Boston’s network of civic associations to engage residents, build community, and provide feedback on neighborhood developments and public policies; *and*

WHEREAS, Civic associations provide critical platforms for community engagement, amplifying resident voices, especially those who are traditionally underrepresented; *and*

WHEREAS, Many civic associations operate with volunteer support and minimal resources, relying on out-of-pocket costs for essential operations such as printing, website creation, virtual meeting technology, and outreach; *and*

WHEREAS, Unequal access to resources, including technology and language services, creates disparities among civic associations, particularly in historically disinvested neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, Providing technical assistance, targeted financial support, and capacity-building opportunities will help civic associations operate effectively, increase engagement, and foster equitable community representation; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore providing technical assistance and targeted funding for civic associations, including resources for website development, social media management, hybrid meeting technology, translation services, and outreach efforts; **AND, BE IT FURTHER**

ORDERED: That the hearing examines best practices to improve operations, diversify meeting topics to include schools, climate justice, and community-building activities, and increase representation from renters, younger residents, and underrepresented voices. Additionally, the City will consider creating a centralized digital platform to share information on civic associations, facilitate hybrid meetings, improve communication, and support collaboration. The discussion will address barriers to equity, explore phased pilot programs to measure outcomes, and assess third-party funding management models to avoid conflicts of interest while ensuring

equitable resource distribution. Representatives from the Office of Neighborhood Services, Civic Organizing, the Department of Language and Communication Access, and other relevant City departments, along with civic association leaders and stakeholders, will be invited to testify and provide recommendations.

Filed on: Jan. 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS PROBLEM PROPERTIES IN BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** The Problem Properties Task Force has compiled a list of “problem properties” within the City of Boston, which present significant challenges to public safety and neighborhood well-being; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The designation of a property as a “problem property” is based on various factors, including issued violations, calls to public safety agencies, and other incident reports; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Problem Properties Task Force collaborates with multiple City departments and agencies to investigate and address issues associated with problem properties, striving to hold property owners accountable for resolving outstanding concerns; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Recent events highlight the urgent need to address problem properties and their impact on community safety and quality of life; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Despite efforts by state law-enforcement agencies, persistent concerns regarding problem properties persist, necessitating coordinated action by local authorities; *and*
- WHEREAS:** It should be proposed that a report summarizing the findings and recommendations from the hearing shall be submitted to the Boston City Council for further action; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council shall convene a hearing to examine the issue of problem properties within the City of Boston. Representatives from relevant City departments and agencies, as well as community stakeholders, shall be invited to provide testimony and discuss potential strategies for addressing problem properties and enhancing public safety. The hearing shall explore how to strengthen the Problem Properties taskforce and improve coordination among City departments, law enforcement agencies, and community members to effectively identify, monitor, and remediate problem properties, with the goal of fostering safer and more vibrant neighborhoods across Boston.

Filed in City Council: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW AND ESTABLISH A “BUSINESS OWNER 101” PROGRAM FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS

WHEREAS: The City of Boston provides grants to help support new businesses throughout the City; and

WHEREAS: While Boston has a robust ecosystem of programs to support new business owners, including entities like BECMA, Amplify Latinx, Boston Impact Initiative, ICIC, and MassChallenge, many entrepreneurs remain unaware of these resources or face challenges navigating them; and

WHEREAS: New entrepreneurs may lack access to coordinated education, mentorship, and technical assistance that are critical to their success, leading to avoidable errors that could jeopardize their businesses; and

WHEREAS: There is an opportunity to build tighter coordination between the City and existing technical assistance providers to ensure entrepreneurs are efficiently connected to the right resources; and

WHEREAS: Homebuyers who receive City assistance are required to complete a “Homebuyer 101” course, which equips them with necessary tools to understand their investment, mitigate risks, and plan for success; and

WHEREAS: A similar “Business Owner 101” program is planned as an educational support system to provide essential information, particularly for grant recipients, on foundational topics such as financial planning, permitting, compliance, and business operations; and

WHEREAS: Further discussion is needed to explore how a “Business Owner 101” program will operate, language accessibility, and proper marketing; and

WHEREAS: Collaboration with key partners in Boston’s entrepreneurial ecosystem can ensure this program leverages existing expertise, fills gaps where necessary, and effectively empowers new business owners; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review and discuss the new “Business Owner 101” program, with an emphasis on aligning with existing programs and partners. Representatives from the Office of

Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, as well as key stakeholders such as BECMA, Amplify Latinx, Boston Impact Initiative, ICIC, MassChallenge, and other interested parties, shall be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON A PROPOSAL FOR A CRISPUS ATTUCKS STATUE

- WHEREAS,** Crispus Attucks, a Black man of African and Native American descent, was the first casualty of the American Revolution, killed during the Boston Massacre on March 5, 1770; and
- WHEREAS,** Attucks' bravery and sacrifice symbolize the fight for freedom and equity, serving as an inspiration to generations of Bostonians and Americans alike; and
- WHEREAS,** Crispus Attucks played a pivotal role in the events leading up to the American Revolution, demonstrating the courage and resilience of marginalized communities in the face of oppression and injustice; and
- WHEREAS,** Other cities across the United States, including Boston's revolutionary siblings New York City and Philadelphia, have already built statues in honor of Crispus Attucks, recognizing his pivotal role in American history; and
- WHEREAS,** The Downtown area of Boston, as a hub of significance in the American Revolution, stands as a fitting location to commemorate Crispus Attucks; and
- WHEREAS,** The Friends of Crispus Attucks and the Office of Arts and Culture have begun collaboration on site and process for the statue; and
- WHEREAS,** A site and temporary art should be created ahead of the country's 250th Independence Day with the goal of unveiling a finished statue before the city's quadricentennial in 2030; and
- WHEREAS,** The creation of a statue for Crispus Attucks in the City of Boston would serve as a symbol of our commitment to honoring diverse voices and recognizing the contributions of marginalized communities to our shared history; **AND NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**
- ORDERED,** That the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the process and obstacles facing the creation of a statue in honor of Crispus Attucks within the City of Boston, celebrating his legacy and contributions to the fight for liberty and justice for all.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR SHARON DURKAN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE AMENDING THE BOSTON ZONING CODE TO REMOVE PARKING MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS FOR NEW RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is committed to advancing sustainable development, unlocking housing supply, addressing the challenges posed by climate change, and alleviating severe urban traffic congestion; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Minimum parking requirements in the Boston Zoning Code mandate the inclusion of off-street parking spaces in many new residential developments, which increases the cost of housing units, curtails housing supply, and limits the feasibility of creating affordable housing units; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Eliminating these requirements would allow the housing development market to function better by removing a non-market-based barrier, thereby reducing costs, fostering the creation of more housing, and incentivizing sustainable growth; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Three years ago, this body voted to amend the Boston Zoning Code to eliminate off-street parking minimums for affordable housing developments which are defined as residential developments where at least 60% of the units are income-restricted at 100% of Area Median Income (AMI) or below; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The rationale supporting the aforementioned amendment holds true for market-rate housing across the city as well; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Neighboring jurisdictions such as Cambridge, MA and Somerville, MA have passed measures to remove parking minimums for residential development while having similar car ownership rates per household to Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** For Boston's future goals around climate and housing, as expressed through the Climate Action Plan, potential ADU allowability, and recent increase in IDP requirements to be effective, removing residential parking minimums from the Boston Zoning Code would assist in those goals; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council convene a hearing to examine amending the Boston Zoning Code to remove all residential parking minimums for new development in the City of Boston.

Filed on: January 2, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Order for a Hearing Regarding the Use of Nondisclosure, Confidentiality, and any and all Other Types of Employment Agreements

WHEREAS, Nondisclosure agreements (NDAs), confidentiality agreements, and other similar employment contracts are intended to protect sensitive information but may, in certain contexts, prove deleterious to the purpose and pursuit of transparent government and a safe, welcoming, and equitable work environment; and

WHEREAS, The use of such agreements in the public sector, including within the Boston City Council, raises significant concerns about transparency, accountability, and the public's right to know about the actions and decisions of its government; and

WHEREAS, The use of NDAs and similar agreements in municipal government is not a common practice, and their implementation may further erode public trust, particularly when their purpose and scope are not fully understood or appear to shield misconduct or lack of transparency; and

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Legislature and other governing bodies have debated limiting the use of nondisclosure agreements, demonstrating a growing consensus on the need for reform in this area; and

WHEREAS, Recent public scrutiny and growing concerns about the use of nondisclosure agreements within municipal government have created a need for transparency and accountability to preserve public trust, particularly as residents face economic and governance challenges that demand swift and decisive action; and

WHEREAS, A comprehensive review of nondisclosure, confidentiality, and other employment agreements used in the Boston City Council is necessary to ensure that policies and practices align with principles of good governance, public trust, and the rights of employees;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to examine the use, purpose, and impact of nondisclosure, confidentiality, and other employment agreements within the Council and other city agencies, with the goal of gaining a comprehensive understanding, assessing compliance with public policy, and exploring potential reforms to ensure transparency, accountability, and workplace fairness; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss this and relevant parties be invited to participate in this hearing to provide testimony and recommendations.

Filed in City Council: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS ENHANCED PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURES DURING LARGE EVENTS IN BOSTON

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is home to numerous large public events, including parades, festivals, and open street activities, which attract significant numbers of residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, The safety and security of attendees at these events is of paramount importance to the City of Boston; and

WHEREAS, Recent incidents, such as the tragedy in New Orleans where a truck drove into a crowd, underscore the critical need to explore additional measures to protect large gatherings from potential threats; and

WHEREAS, The use of physical barriers, including strategically placed vehicles, has been identified as an effective method to deter and prevent vehicular threats in crowded areas; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Regional Intelligence Center (BRIC) collaborates closely with local, state, and federal agencies to enhance situational awareness and provide actionable intelligence that supports law enforcement and public safety officials in maintaining peace and security during large public events; and

WHEREAS, Proactively implementing enhanced safety measures, informed by BRIC's intelligence and expertise, could strengthen the City's preparedness for large-scale events and improve public safety outcomes; now, therefore, be it

ORDERED, That the Boston City Council's appropriate committee is requested to hold a hearing to discuss enhanced public safety measures during large events, including the feasibility and logistics of using vehicles or other physical barriers to secure public spaces; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That representatives from the Boston Police Department, Boston Transportation Department, Mayor's Office of Emergency Management, and other relevant agencies and stakeholders, as well as public safety experts and event organizers, be invited to participate and provide testimony.

Filed on the 8th day of January, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON 2024 CRIME STATISTICS

WHEREAS: The 2024 crime statistics report was released by the Boston Police Department on December 29th, 2024. It is critical that the Boston City Council discuss crime trends with relevant stakeholders, including city officials, law enforcement, advocacy groups, schools, and residents; *and*

WHEREAS: The scope of crimes reported is sectionalized into three parts: Part 1 crime, firearm-related arrests, and shootings. Part 1 crime overall increased by 1% from 2023 to 2024, with most notable increases in the categories of domestic and non-domestic assault (up by 43 and 23 incidents respectively), commercial burglary (up by 17 incidents), and other larceny (up by 645 incidents). The number of firearm-related arrests remains the same as last year at 436 arrests, and there were 105 gunfire incidents this year, down from 107 incidents last year; *and*

WHEREAS: We must recognize the hardworking men and women at the Boston Police Department for their dedication to keep our city safe. This year, Boston has had the lowest homicide rate in almost 70 years. However, there is still work to do in other areas; *and*

WHEREAS: It is important to discuss these crime statistics to help our communities understand the prevalence and types of crimes occurring in their area, which can help to inform our policy and legislation moving forward. We must recognize patterns in our crime statistics to improve public safety and quality of life; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the 2024 crime statistics in the City of Boston. Representatives from the Boston Police Department, the Boston Police Commissioner, and Boston City Council are invited to attend.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE PROCESS OF ESTABLISHING HERO SQUARES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: A Hero Square is a designated square or intersection honoring the memory of service members on behalf of our city and country. Hero Squares celebrate their sacrifices and educate local communities about the history of service in their own neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS: In 1898, the City of Boston established its first Hero Square in honor of Admiral George Dewey after his leadership in the victory of the Battle of Manila Bay during the Spanish-American War. His death in 1917 signified a great loss for the nation, and Dewey Square served as a place for the people of Boston to reflect on his service; *and*

WHEREAS: Since the establishment of Dewey Square, the City has established over 1,200 Hero Squares across Boston. In 2013, the City added a biography and a QR code to each Hero Square plaque that leads to more information about the veteran. With a large veteran and military family population in Boston, it is critical that the City continues to raise awareness about its resources. The process for families to establish their own Hero Square for their loved one is a relatively straightforward process, and raising public awareness may help to make them more prevalent in our neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS: To apply for a Hero Square in the City, one must gather required documentation including copies of DD-214 and proof of KIA if applicable. Then, complete the City of Boston Veterans' Services Department application form online with details such as the requester's name, relationship to the veteran, contact information, and type of request. Next, one may propose a suitable and historically significant location, submit the completed application and supporting documents to the Veterans' Services Department, and follow up to ensure receipt and review of the application. Upon approval, the applicant would look to coordinate with city officials for design, installation, and the dedication ceremony to honor a designated veteran's contributions; *and*

WHEREAS: Establishing Hero Squares honors our service members and strengthens Boston's dedication to preserving its military history. To ensure these contributions are recognized, it is crucial for the City Council to work closely with the Office of Veterans Services to enhance public awareness, make it easier for families to commemorate their loved ones, and maintain the city's rich legacy of honoring those who sacrificed for our country; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the process of establishing Hero Squares in the City of Boston.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS SERVICES FOR WOMEN VETERANS

- WHEREAS:** Since the US military ended conscription and established an all-volunteer force in 1973, the number of women serving in the military has risen significantly. Although women currently comprise of nearly 20% of serving military personnel and 10% of the veteran population, many women veterans do not receive proper recognition for their services and face a host of issues when they re-enter civilian life; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Despite serving nine million enrolled veterans annually, the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) does not have medical facilities that provide the necessary and adequate maternity care for women veterans, particularly with issues related to mental illness. These medical providers instead refer them to providers in the community; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The VA Office of Women's Health recently reported that women comprise 30% of all new Veterans Health Administration (VHA) patients, and 3 out of 4 women veterans who used VA health services in FY19 had an urban residence, but the number of rural women is increasing; *and*
- WHEREAS:** VA hospitals often struggle to provide gender specific medical care for our women veterans, even as women are the fastest growing population in the VA. The *Deborah Sampson Act* seeks to address this issue by requiring the VA to offer primary care for female veterans at all medical centers and clinics, and provide access to counseling to women who suffered service-related sexual trauma as well as those who are at risk of becoming homeless; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Recent efforts to improve VA care for women veterans include S. 3526, *Lactation Spaces for Veteran Moms Act*, sponsored by U.S. Senator Jacky Rosen of Nevada and introduced to the Senate on December 14, 2023, will require each VA medical center to create a lactation station for nursing veterans, and S.5210, *BRAVE Act of 2024*, sponsored by Senator Jon Tester of Montana, which is a bill to improve mental health services at the VA, including introducing a study on the effectiveness of suicide prevention and mental health outreach programs of Department of Veterans Affairs for women veterans; *and*
- WHEREAS:** It is found that 25% of women veterans experience Military Sexual Trauma (MST) during military service, putting them at increased risk for depression, substance abuse, and PTSD. Some women veterans also do not reach out for services due to anxiety of having to return to a military-related environment and it is found that women veterans are twice more likely to commit suicide than their male counterparts; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Women veterans are also more likely to struggle with childcare and homelessness. Many women veterans are single with dependent children and receive lower compensation for civilian work after their time in the service. According to the VA, women veterans are twice as likely to experience homelessness than those that did not serve in the military, and 1-2% of

all women veterans and 13-15% of women veterans living in poverty will experience homelessness over the course of a year; *and*

WHEREAS: Women veterans also experience difficulty in finding work related to their occupation in the military as they are commonly male-dominated fields, and most lack the college education needed to enter the service sector; *and*

WHEREAS: In Massachusetts, The Women Veterans' Network of the Department of Veterans' Services was established in 1997 with the vision of being the central resource for women veterans in Massachusetts. They meet regularly to discuss concerns facing women veterans and provide them with information and support; *and*

WHEREAS: We must recognize the challenges that women veterans face when returning home and that they receive the necessary healthcare and support, in particular to those who have experienced assault. We must make sure there are better transitional programs to align women veterans with suitable civilian jobs. There are many unoccupied positions in the VA, especially counselors and we need to make sure a higher percentage of new hires are women; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the services for our women veterans, the Boston Office of Veterans Services, the V.A., veterans organizations, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 8, 2025



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS RESOURCES FOR THE BOSTON POLICE CRIME LABORATORY

- WHEREAS:** The Boston Police Crime Laboratory is a critical part of our Boston Police Department, as its work in processing, examining, and analyzing evidence, such as sexual assault kits, is indispensable to the investigation and solving of crimes; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In 2018, the state legislature mandated that sexual assault kits be tested within 30 days, in order to ensure swift processing of evidence that will bring justice for sexual assault survivors. However, in an annual report by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS), it found that half of the kits were not tested within a 30 day window by the the BPD Crime Laboratory; *and*
- WHEREAS:** According to the report, the lab received 186 sexual assault kits in FY23 between June 2022 and June 2023, and 93 of which it did not managed to test within 30 days. In FY22, it failed to test 39 of the 144 kits within 30 days, and 24 of the 123 kits in FY 21. By comparison, the State Police Crime Laboratory tested 96% of the 714 kits it received within 30 days in FY23; *and*
- WHEREAS:** At last year’s hearing, Boston Police explained that there were staffing shortages at the Crime Lab, and that while there were 22 employees in the lab, there were open positions that needed to be filled as well as staff who were on leave. These staffing shortages have impacted the time in which the sexual assault kits are tested, resulting in an average of 54 days to test a rape kit; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In addition, there was also a lack of stability in leadership at the Crime Lab due to a rotating number of interim directors after its leader was placed on leave in August 2022 amidst an ongoing internal investigation; *and*
- WHEREAS:** It is important that the sexual assault kits and evidence from our sexual assault survivors be processed in a timely manner, and that the Boston Police Department address the staffing shortage at the Crime Laboratory; *and*
- WHEREAS:** During last year’s FY 25 budget process, the Boston City Council voted to internally reallocate \$1 million within the Boston Police Department to support the work of the Boston Police Crime Lab. This included \$700,000 from BPD Personnel Services to the Crime Lab to increase the number of lab techs and to fill the director vacancy, and \$300,000 from BPD Equipment to the Crime Lab to purchase new sexual assault testing equipment; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Since last year’s hearing and budget reallocation, it is important to find out if there are any updates with regard to staffing, compensation and benefits level, and any equipment upgrades that have allowed crime lab staff to perform their work more easily and efficiently, and whether additional resources are still required; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to find out about any staffing and equipment updates at the Boston Police Crime Laboratory, as well as ways to ensure that the Crime Lab has the appropriate resources to operate smoothly and test sexual assault kits on time. Representatives from the Boston Police Department and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 8, 2025

Offered by City Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS A HOLISTIC VISION FOR
DISTRICT SEVEN IN ORDER TO REDRESS HISTORIC RACIAL
HARMS AND TO UPHOLD DISTRICT SEVEN CONSTITUENTS'
CIVIL RIGHTS**

WHEREAS, District 7 (D7) comprises the neighborhood of Roxbury, parts of Fenway, the South End, Grove Hall, Dorchester, Mission Hill, Jamaica Plain, and Back Bay with a diverse but segregated population, including a majority of Black residents, followed by LatinX, White, and immigrant groups from Cabo Verde, Haiti, other islands in the Caribbeans and smaller numbers of Indians and other ethnic groups; *and*

WHEREAS, It is imperative for the city to be intentional in equity efforts for disenfranchised communities to rectify historic racial harms, systemic discrimination, and exclusion. The city should work to dismantle inequitable structures, promote justice, and ensure that all residents have equal access to opportunities and resources which are essential for healing past injustices, building trust, and creating a more equitable and inclusive society; *and*

WHEREAS, To address disparities and redress historic harms, the D7 City Councilor needs strong community partnerships, access to research and data, and legislative support to drive meaningful change. Securing funding and collaborating with various city departments and allies willing to make sincere and intentional commitments on behalf of the administration are essential for implementing initiatives that address systemic inequities; *and*

WHEREAS, Public support, along with effective communication and outreach, ensures the community remains engaged and that all future development plans stay on track. Ultimately, strong leadership and a clear, long-term vision are critical for navigating challenges and achieving equitable development and revitalization in the District; *and*

WHEREAS, To address the systemic inequities in D7, the District 7 Councilor created the D7 Action Plan, a strategic and measurable initiative focused on Education, Public Health, Public Safety, Civic Engagement, Environmental Justice, Economic Growth, and Housing; *and*

- WHEREAS,** In partnership with local academics, the D7 Advisory Council, and community stakeholders, an Action Research team that works to identify necessary financial, legislative, and programmatic changes to fight displacement, revitalize commercial corridors, promote equitable development, and enhance economic and physical mobility in the District; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Inclusive, transparent, intentional, and sincere community engagement from the City of Boston’s administration is crucial to redressing District 7’s historic racial harms. Ensuring that the voices of those most affected by systemic inequities are heard, and respected; fostering trust, empowering residents to participate in decision-making, and creating solutions that truly reflect the community’s needs; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Equitable community engagement also promotes accountability, helping to ensure that the city’s actions align with its commitments. Thus, through sincere collaboration building stronger relationships between the city and its residents, making plans more effective and sustainable in addressing the root causes of inequity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to a 2023 Boston Public Health Commission, the Health of Boston report, there is about a 23-year difference in life expectancy between part of Back Bay, where life expectancy is 91.6 years, and part of Roxbury, where life expectancy is 68.8 years; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This same report found that Roxbury had the second lowest life expectancy at birth by neighborhood; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A higher percentage of Black male (28.4%), Asian male (30.8%) and Latinx male students (30.9%) had asthma compared with White male students (20.2%) and in 2021, 13.1% of Boston adult residents reported having asthma according to Boston’s 2023 Asthma Report; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Presently, more than 1,500 affordable housing units in Massachusetts are at risk of flood waters reaching their buildings once a year on average, a recent analysis showed, substantially impacting neighborhoods like Lower Roxbury, Roxbury, and Grove Hall, which are not only in flood zones, but also carry a disproportionate amount of the city’s affordable housing stock, with the city’s *Climate Ready* report finding that 180 acres of Roxbury will be exposed to major flooding events later this century; *and*
- WHEREAS,** District 7 residents currently experience disparities in mobility and transit access, with Black commuters spending an extra 66 hours a year waiting, riding, and transferring than white bus riders, according to a new analysis from Northeastern University’s Dukakis Center for Urban and Regional Policy; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Because of these transit mobility problems, many residents in District 7, especially in Lower Roxbury, suffer from a lack of access to vital amenities, including supermarkets, from which many residents live at least 20 minutes away

by walking or by public transit, according to the Henry Spatial Analysis consulting firm; *and*

WHEREAS, District 7 experiences disproportionate economic disenfranchisement, as an April 2024 study found that Black and Brown small business owners, particularly those in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan, struggle to access to capital—which continues to be the primary barrier for business owners—and that while procurement is an important avenue for diverse businesses to grow, many business owners do not have knowledge of the certification process or the capacity to meet the needs of large anchor institutions; *and*

WHEREAS, This results in the further displacement of businesses supporting Black and Brown communities who depend on these businesses for jobs, services, and cultural identity, speaking to the substantial impact of gentrification and rising costs exacerbating systemic inequalities, disrupting social and economic stability, and limiting commercial viability; *and*

WHEREAS, Residents across District 7 experience difficulties in accessing common amenities that not only improve quality of life but also address the social determinants of health, and as a result live in a neighborhood classified as a pharmacy desert, a food desert, a neighborhood lacking in adequate arts and entertainment space with few liquor licenses—receiving just eight additional new licenses in the 2014 bill—and a neighborhood without holistic academic supports, and more; *and*

WHEREAS, From an education perspective, Roxbury today experiences the consequences of decades of disinvestment, with the BPS Long Term Facilities Plan finding that, of the 18 BPS facilities in Roxbury, 9 of them are listed as having “no feasible model summary”, meaning that the site could neither be updated nor redeveloped to meet the contemporary needs of its students; *and*

WHEREAS, Longstanding racial disparities continue to impact student performance in Boston Public Schools, as the Massachusetts Racial Imbalance Advisory Council found that there is a 93% graduation rate among schools where most kids are white versus 72% where most kids are kids of color; *and*

WHEREAS, Furthermore, while Black and Latino males combined represent 35% of all BPS students, they comprise 53% of students with disabilities, according to the report; *and*

WHEREAS, While English learners represent 30% of the BPS student body, they constitute 47% of students identified as having a hearing impairment, 46% of those with a communication impairment and 55% of those with multiple impairments, speaking to the need for stronger intersectional supports for English Learners; *and*

WHEREAS, This District witnessed disproportionate, historic, debilitating, destructive, and racially oppressive Urban Renewal Powers under 121A, B, and C and continues to be robbed of their ability to control their economic and housing future, also

arising from deliberate disinvestment of city, state, and federal resources further propelling racial segregation and marginalization; *and*

WHEREAS, Roxbury, D7's largest neighborhood, in 2024 continues to experience the greatest impacts of decades of systemic inequities and injustice, with the racial homeownership gap wider than it was in 1980 driven by loan denials and deed restrictions disproportionately impacting Black and Brown buyers, wealth and equity being routinely extracted from Black communities; *and*

WHEREAS, The Home Owners Loan Corporation, a federally chartered lending agency created in 1933 under the Federal Home Loan Bank Board *legalized* institutional segregation of neighborhoods, especially Roxbury, through a practice known as redlining. Thus, mortgages and home improvement loans were not issued or were issued on less favorable terms to Black and LatinX buyers than were provided to White buyers because of institutionalized racism; *and*

WHEREAS, The intentional and destructive legacy of urban renewal remains and still impacts land use, mobility, environmental justice, housing, and wealth creation, as its use by city officials left Roxbury bereft of housing, commercial space, and parkland, contributing to the neighborhood's being deemed "blighted", by the very same people responsible for the neighborhood's deteriorated condition, and who then used eminent domain to take the land; *and*

WHEREAS, Residents in District 7 today still experience housing insecurity, substandard housing conditions and displacement, due in part to gentrification, lack of affordable housing investment, and restricted community-driven development partnership or collaboration. One study found that between 2000 and 2015, the proportion of Black residents in Roxbury decreased from 62% to 53%, while the proportion of white residents increased, bolstered by the fact that housing costs in Roxbury shot up by 70% from 2010 to 2015, twice the rate of the overall citywide appreciation of 36% during that period. This mirrors a similar phenomenon that occurred in the South End, a once-historically Black neighborhood where Black residents now make up just 12% of the population; *and*

WHEREAS, Only 26% of Roxbury residents own their homes, with the average median household income for an individual in Roxbury at just \$34,000 a year, 53% less than the average median income of a Boston resident at \$71,000; *and*

WHEREAS, In addition to Action Research, the District 7 office partnered with local academic institutions to conduct a spatial mapping analysis with the goal of creating a comprehensive vision for District 7, one where we take a holistic approach to the needs of constituents by understanding what amenities—be it city services or commercial amenities—currently exist and what are needed as redevelopments continue to take place in neighborhood; *and*

WHEREAS, As a means to address the ongoing housing displacement of residents, primarily people of color and low-income residents, the District 7 office is actively

pursuing means to implement Special Protection Zoning, a regulatory tool used in urban planning to protect certain areas with specific characteristics or values, such as natural resources, historical sites, or areas with particular environmental sensitivity with the goal that development and land use in these areas are controlled to preserve their unique attributes and combat displacement; *and*

WHEREAS, The District 7 office partners with city agencies, community advocates, academic institutions, and others in order to redress the systemic harms impacting District 7’s displacement epidemic, including establishing through the Mayor’s Office of Housing an RFP to allow rent-to-own opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, With the understanding that holistic planning, that which incorporates the values of the community, fights displacement and gentrification, and provides for the entire needs of its residents, the District 7 office filed legislation calling for a moratorium to plan more holistically, synergistically, thoughtfully, and intentionally with the guiding values of restorative justice through land disposition; *and*

WHEREAS, In addition, the District 7 Councilor established The ARTery, a commercial revitalization effort stretching from Jazz Square in the South End through to Grove Hall with strategic investments in public facilities, placemaking, storefront revitalization, and beautification through creative arts installations; *and*

WHEREAS, The District 7 office has engaged in efforts to address the ongoing issue of revitalizing commercial corridors through strategic budgetary realignments, including funding for the Roxbury Resilient Corridors project, which will design and implement improvements for Melnea Cass Blvd., Malcolm X Blvd., and Warren Street, *and*

WHEREAS, In an effort to provide opportunities to redevelop areas in ways which can lead to increased property values, increased tax revenue, improved infrastructure, and more, the District 7 office passed a resolution advocating for District Improvement Financing (DIF), in addition to filing hearing orders exploring district improvement financing in District 7 and further provided assistance and support in developing the organization to execute upon this; *and*

WHEREAS, To help provide community benefits obtained through redevelopment to mitigate the unintended displacement of individuals as a result of new developments, the District 7 Office supported community stakeholders with technical resources in the founding of the District 7 Community Fund, Inc., a nonprofit which provides mini-grants to support small businesses and entrepreneurs, inspired by similar funds established in cities throughout the United States such as the Philadelphia Community Fund, providing matriculating High School students with scholarship opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, To further improve and sustain the local commercial economy, the District 7 Councilor secured funding for a Digital Marketplace. Through BLocal this initiative will include technical assistance for small businesses, creating a public

online marketplace, transitioning brick-and-mortar businesses online, and partnering with local service providers. It aims to support tech adoption, improve tech assistance to merchants, data collection, coalition building, and the development of future small business infrastructure for financial sustainability; *and*

WHEREAS, In respect to Roxbury’s historic disinvestment of city services, the D7 Councilor has delivered on funding to repair public facilities in the District and to create new intervening services in the community, in addition to filing legislation which seeks to identify new and innovative ways to spur economic development and social cohesion, including a hearing order on cleaning parcels prior to their development; *and*

WHEREAS, With the understanding that the economic mobility of Roxbury is closely tied with the physical mobility of its residents, the District 7 Councilor is actively pursuing ways to address the neighborhood’s historic congestion issues impacting traffic and pollution by filing a hearing order on exploring congestion pricing as a means to ameliorate District 7’s concurring transportation and environmental justice concerns, and a hearing order addressing outstanding residential parking concerns; *and*

WHEREAS, Through community surveys, artist interviews, action research, and collaboration alongside Northeastern University architects designs, the District 7 office is actively engaged in designing a district which is welcoming, attractive, and amenity-rich through strategic budgetary and programmatic changes, including new funding for placemaking and place keeping, food farms, green open space, equity building, art space, and incubators; *and*

WHEREAS, District 7’s status as a heat island demands immediate action to expand access to greenspace, being mindful of existing developments and future redevelopments to ensure proper tree canopy coverage and that new developments add to the neighborhood’s greenspace; *and*

WHEREAS, Because of District 7’s location in the center of Boston, major thoroughfares run through the community, including Blue Hill Avenue, whose ongoing Master Plan redesign demands increased collaboration with small business owners and community members, and as such the District 7 office has continued to partner with local community advocates to ensure new projects prioritize the needs of local residents and business owners by mitigating unintended harm to fight commercial displacement; *and*

WHEREAS, Similarly, as the district which contains Boston’s largest park, Franklin Park, it is incumbent that current redesign plans, including the ongoing White Stadium redesign, incorporate a comprehensive and practical transportation plan to ensure that we move the needle in the right direction for mobility and environmental impact in District 7; *and*

WHEREAS, In an effort to address long standing educational inequities impacting students in District Seven, the D7 office has introduced and passed legislation designed at addressing the root causes contributing to these inequities, including passing a resolution opposing the proposal to move the John D. O’Bryant School, fighting to ensure that Madison Park has the resources to be a gold-standard for vocational education; *and*

WHEREAS, By working alongside mental health advocates and care providers, the District 7 office sponsored hearing orders designed to address the mental health needs of students in the district, including an order for a hearing on provisions of temporary mental health treatment or interventions and preventions for children and youth before formal diagnosis and an order for a hearing to address the mental health needs of our students with a focus on guidance counselors; *and*

WHEREAS, In addition, the D7 Councilor works to ensure budgetary realignments which work to create means through which student can achieve academic equity, including but not limited to the D7 Homework Heroes project, which works to address the difficult choices low-income students must make between earning money for their family and completing their academic studies by employing students in a tutoring and mentorship after-school job program to complete their homework while getting connected with other resources needed to ensure academic success; *and*

WHEREAS, The District 7 office works to enhance digital integration and connect constituents to resources, information, events, and more by creating the D7 App, a mobile app launched by the D7 Office which residents can download in order to access a full district inventory, get more civically engaged, and access vital information, in addition to launching the Boston District 7 website, where residents can access the same information on their web browser—going door-to-door encouraging residents to connect to their community through these digital resources; *and*

WHEREAS, In order to engage, inform, and collaborate alongside residents and community stakeholders, the District 7 Office engages in quarterly Town Halls, with events focusing on particular neighborhoods to ensure that residents are aware of the unique resources and opportunities available to them, including the State of Roxbury and the State of South End town halls; *and*

WHEREAS, In addition, the District 7 office holds monthly information sessions and workshops where residents can learn about the budget and to gain feedback on any ongoing city business, inform the office on pressing constituent issues, and to establish pathways for deeper collaboration with community stakeholders; *and*

WHEREAS, In order to uphold the civil rights of residents in District 7 living with the intersectional impacts of centuries of systemic racism, the District 7 Office co-sponsored the ordinance establishing the Reparations Task Force, lead the effort for the Council to pass a resolution apologizing for Boston’s role in the Transatlantic Slave trade, advocates for the removal of racist names, symbols,

and statues in public places, passed a resolution calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, and fights for fair wages for municipal officers; *and*

WHEREAS, This City should take into account the decades of investments, advocacy, and planning which have been taken and are already underway to ensure that we are building on the existing community work as opposed to reinventing the process from scratch; *and*

WHEREAS, The Roxbury Strategic Master Plan culminated three years of partnership with community members, resident groups and the District 7 Councilor who together designed a plan to create economic, social and educational opportunities for the people of Roxbury in a holistic and comprehensive manner, with the final plan introduced in January of 2004 by Mayor Tom Menino, ; *and*

WHEREAS, Designed to serve as a strategic framework to guide change and economic growth—originally for the forthcoming ten to twenty years in Roxbury—it is imperative that the City of Boston work in collaboration with members of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee, in addition to all community stakeholders, to evolve this vision to serve the community over the next twenty years; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a number of hearings so that the Council may unpack each of District 7's priorities substantively. This shall include the following hearings:

1. Hearing I: Representatives from the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Boston Planning and Development Agency, the Boston Planning Department, and the Office of Fair Housing and Equity will be invited to discuss holistic planning and development for D7 specifically to combat housing displacement, City-owned land disposition, homeownership, and housing restorative justice;
2. Hearing II: Representatives from the Economic Opportunity & Inclusion Cabinet, specifically the Small Business Department Office and Supplier Diversity, in addition to the Mayor's Office of Tourism, Sports, and Entertainment, the Worker Empowerment Cabinet, specifically the Office of Workforce Development, will be invited to a hearing to address economic mobility plans for D7, commercial displacement, small business support, the Boston Residents Jobs Policy, workforce development, entrepreneurial supports, tourism, and space activation;
3. Hearing III: Representatives from the Streets Cabinet, specifically the Boston Transportation Department, will be invited to discuss outstanding transportation issues impacting the mobility of District 7 residents, maintenance, repairs, and ongoing transportation projects, transportation displacement, transportation plans, and constituent issues such as sidewalk repair and parking issues;
4. Hearing IV: Representatives from the Environment Department, the Department of Parks and Recreation, the Office of Climate Resilience, and representatives from the Grow Boston program will be invited to discuss environmental injustice, open space, parks capital plans and updates, and communications regarding implementations;
5. Hearing V: Representatives from the Boston Public Schools will be invited to discuss school displacement, school closures, schools facility improvements, D7 capital plans for schools,

afterschool programs, early education and intervention, home-school connection and other resources to close the achievement gap;

6. Hearing VI: Representatives from the Community Engagement Cabinet, specifically the Mayor's Office of Neighborhood Services, the Office of Civic Organizing, in addition to the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement, the Office of New Urban Mechanics, the Office of Language and Communications, and other appropriate departments to discuss community engagement, communications, transparency, inclusion, and civic engagement;
7. Hearing VII: Representatives from the Boston Police Department, the Office of Black Male Advancement, the Office of Community Safety, the Office of Returning Citizens, and other relevant departments shall be invited to a hearing regarding the public safety concerns of District 7, including community engagement, trauma-informed services, and violence prevention efforts; and
8. Hearing VIII: Representatives from the Human Services cabinet, specifically the Age Strong Commission, the Boston Centers for Youth and Families, and the Office of Veterans Services, in addition to Boston Public Health Commission and other relevant departments shall be invited to a hearing to discuss the health and wellness of residents in District 7, with a specific focus on mental health, substance abuse recovery, trauma-informed services, and more; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

ORDERED: In addition to the above administrative invitations, members of different advocacy organizations, including, ACE, Reclaim Roxbury, the Garrison Trotter Neighborhood Association, the Highland Park Land Trust, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative, BECMA, the Livable Streets Alliance, the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce, in addition to members of the Roxbury Strategic Master Plan Oversight Committee, members of the Boston City Council with a particular emphasis on At-Large Councilors, other community advocates, and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Two weeks prior to each hearing, a Request for Information (RFI) outlining specific questions will be distributed to each department, accompanied by a notification of their required attendance.

Additionally, after the Committee holds hearings on this hearing order the District Seven City Councilor will produce an end-of-year report. Next, she will collaborate with academic partners to assess her work, the gaps and identify necessary capital investments, projects, programs, and policies to add. Finally, delivering and discussing a plan with the administration, with the goal of working together to address historic racial inequities, uphold civil rights, in order to enhance quality of life for all District Seven residents.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING OF COASTAL RESILIENCE STRATEGIES AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A CLIMATE BANK

- WHEREAS,** Boston's waterfront is a historic and treasured resource that is protected for all residents by the Public Waterfront Act (Chapter 91). As we prepare for sea-level rise due to climate change, we must prioritize waterfront planning, funding, and development that incorporates resilience, equity, accessibility; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to a report from the First Street Foundation, Suffolk County faces the greatest risk of flooding with more than 45% of our critical infrastructure at risk, including hospitals, schools, police, and fire stations. This is expected to increase by 20% by 2051; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Coastal flooding due to storm surge has increased on a more frequent basis and affects property owners and tenants alike. Severe flooding will result in the displacement of thousands, predominantly those who are low-income and people of color, renters in basement or first-floor level units within the flood zone; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Last year, Boston made significant strides in ensuring all 47-miles of our coastline are truly resilient by establishing the first ever Office of Climate Resilience. The Office is conducting projects on a district-wide scale, and prioritizing flood pathways by using both passive and active permeable landscapes; *and*
- WHEREAS,** However, the robust nature of these projects requires major investments in capital funding so that climate resilient infrastructure can move from the design phase to the construction and maintenance phase; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Given the urgency to address the devastating impacts of the climate crisis, it is crucial to move beyond the assessment stage to implementation. Identifying the necessary resources as well as working collaboratively with private, public, and philanthropic partners should be a top priority for both the Environment, Energy, and Open Space cabinet as well as the Boston Planning and Development Agency; *and*
- WHEREAS,** It is estimated to cost Boston upwards of \$3 Billion dollars to fortify Boston's 47-mile coastline from sea-level rise and storm surge with nature-based and gray infrastructure engineering solutions; *and*

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA AND JOHN FITZGERALD

WHEREAS, A climate bank at the city level is a financial institution or initiative designed to fund and support projects aimed at addressing climate change and promoting sustainability. It can serve as a crucial tool for cities to mobilize resources, foster sustainable development, and combat climate change effectively; *and*

WHEREAS, Cities across the nation have successfully implemented municipal climate banks, providing valuable lessons and best practices for Boston to consider; *and*

WHEREAS, Climate banks provide capital for projects that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, enhance resilience to climate impacts, or promote renewable energy. This can include grants, loans, or investment opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, Climate banks finance a variety of initiatives, such as energy efficiency upgrades, renewable energy installations, sustainable transportation projects, green infrastructure, and community resilience programs. They often leverage public and private investments, helping to attract additional funding from various sources, including federal grants, private investors, and philanthropic organizations; *and*

WHEREAS, Many climate banks prioritize equitable access to funding, ensuring that marginalized communities benefit from climate initiatives and have a voice in decision-making processes; *and*

WHEREAS, By financing green projects, climate banks can stimulate local economies, create green jobs, and stimulate economic development while addressing the urgent need for climate action; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, that the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the implementation and funding of coastal resilience strategies via the establishment of a climate bank in Boston. The hearing will focus on the following key points:

1. Funding Sources: Explore various funding mechanisms, including public funding, grants, and partnerships with private investors.
2. Project Selection Criteria: Discuss criteria for selecting projects that the climate bank will finance, emphasizing equity and community involvement.
3. Governance Structure: Consider the governance and operational framework for the climate bank, including oversight and accountability measures.
4. Policy Integration: Understand how it might work alongside city departments to align funding with broader climate action plans and sustainability goals.

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA AND JOHN FITZGERALD

5. Public Engagement: Strategies for involving residents and stakeholders in the development and implementation of the climate bank; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER***

ORDERED: that all interested parties, including city officials, environmental organizations, community members, and financial experts, be invited to participate and provide testimony.

Filed on: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS FOOD ACCESS, SUSTAINABILITY, AND THE NEED FOR A FOOD HUB IN EAST BOSTON

WHEREAS, East Boston is considered both an environmental justice community and a low-income, low-food access community by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In Massachusetts today, 1 in 3 Hispanic/Latinx families with children are food insecure and in East Boston, 59% of residents are Hispanic/Latinx and 21% of the community's population are children. In short, East Boston faces numerous challenges related to accessing and affording healthy and sustainable food; *and*

WHEREAS, However, it's important to note that there is a range of existing community food assets that aim to address food access issues in the neighborhood. For example, though there is only one large-scale grocery store in East Boston (Shaw's), there are many corner stores and mini-marts that offer food items for purchase, as well as a seasonal farmers market that sells local produce; *and*

WHEREAS, Additionally, there are numerous food pantries, soup kitchens, and mobile market locations in East Boston that provide free meals and groceries to the community. To provide examples, Maverick Landing Community Services distributes healthy groceries to residents and has a robust food rescue program, East Boston Community Soup Kitchen offers both a hot meal and groceries on a weekly basis, and the Sacred Heart Parish hosts a free monthly community dinner. Finally, Eastie Farm, an urban agriculture organization, provides a subsidized community-supported agriculture (CSA) program; *and*

WHEREAS, In other parts of Boston, food insecurity has been addressed through creative solutions. These models could serve as inspiration for future actions to lower the disproportionately high food insecurity rates in East Boston. Some examples include the Dorchester Food Co-op, a community and worker-owned health & local food store, Daily Table, a non-profit, low-cost grocery store chain, and the Office of Food Justice's future Food Rescue Hub in Roxbury; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston needs to collect more information to fully understand the food access landscape in East Boston. Then, the city can craft a corresponding plan to fill the remaining gaps and address food insecurity and environmental justice issues in this neighborhood through a food hub or other similar solution; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA AND JULIA MEJIA

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss food access, sustainability, and the need for a food hub in East Boston and that the Office of Food Justice, relevant stakeholders, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ESTABLISH A CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE CURRICULUM PILOT PROGRAM IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WHEREAS, By 2030, sea level is projected to rise by 0.6 to 1.1 feet above 2000 levels. By 2070, some projections estimate a rise in sea level of 2.3 to 4.2 feet over 2000 levels. Sea level rise combined with more intense hurricanes and winter storms present a serious threat to people residing in coastal areas of Massachusetts; *and*

WHEREAS, Climate change is a pertinent part of our lives, and particularly our children's lives who will have to deal with the bulk of climate change consequences. Yet, climate change-related topics are missing from our Boston Public Schools learning standards; *and*

WHEREAS, In science, Elementary-aged students are expected to learn about weather and energy, but the discussion about how those topics relate to climate change is often missing from the lesson; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2021, An Act Creating a Next-Generation Roadmap for Massachusetts Climate Policy, also known as the 2050 Roadmap bill, was codified into Massachusetts state law. While the primary goal of the bill is to create a net-zero greenhouse gas emission limit in Massachusetts by 2050, the law also highlights environmental justice as a necessary tenet of the state's climate policy. This specific amendment is pertinent to Boston Public School students who often live in communities most vulnerable to environmental disasters; *and*

WHEREAS, Recently, a study analyzed publicly available documents from boards of education and state education departments across the U.S. and ranked Massachusetts in the lowest tier — along with most of the country— with “very low” inclusion of climate change-related content in state requirements; *and*

WHEREAS, The Department of Elementary and Secondary Education has a key opportunity to close the gaps within environmental education and develop a climate change curriculum for all public schools. Community resources and partnerships are readily available to address this need; *and*

WHEREAS, Our obligation is to foster a school environment that produces conscious citizens who understand the severity of the climate catastrophe. Additionally, it is vital to

educate the next generation of leaders and to prepare them for professional opportunities that contribute to this fight; *and*

WHEREAS, As a coastal City, it is of the essence that Boston Public Schools has metrics in place to provide students and teachers with resources like community partnerships, curriculum, and professional development to help educate students of the impacts of climate change, and measures to reduce carbon emissions. Establishing a climate change and environmental justice curriculum pilot in Boston Public School can help us begin to address this gap in our schools; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss establishing an environmental justice curriculum in Boston Public Schools and the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, Superintendent Skipper, and other relevant BPS departments be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 8, 2025

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS CRITICAL ISSUES IN JAIL-BASED
VOTING AND EMPOWER INCARCERATED COMMUNITIES TO STRENGTHEN
DEMOCRACY**

- WHEREAS,** While individuals incarcerated for felony convictions in Massachusetts cannot vote, residents awaiting trial and those convicted of misdemeanors are eligible, including the roughly six hundred voters currently residing at Nashua Street Jail and the Suffolk County House of Corrections who can legally vote but suffer from significant barriers to casting their ballot, accessing important voter information, and receiving relevant civic education; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Incarcerated civic leaders and inclusive democracy organizers have led the charge to protect jail-based voting rights and end felony disenfranchisement across the Commonwealth, including jail-based voting volunteers with the Empowering Descendant Communities to Unlock Democracy (EDC) project, which recently identified five critical issues during the 2024 election season in Suffolk County and beyond; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Despite the statutory obligation of state authorities under the 2022 VOTES Act to identify eligible incarcerated voters and implement jail-based voting, current technologies at the House of Corrections are inadequate for systematically determining jail-based voter eligibility in a timely manner; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Nonpartisan civic groups face challenges providing resources and information due to the absence of state or local policies and accountability procedures for implementing jail-based voting; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Jail-based voters struggle to access timely election information due to restricted internet access and poor information dissemination, often relying on community volunteers for crucial election details; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Limited budgetary allocations for translation and interpretation services prevent many incarcerated voters from accessing nonpartisan voter materials in their

preferred languages, leaving eligible voters without essential voting information;
and

WHEREAS, Establishing effective jail-based voting processes requires cross-institutional collaboration between election officials, jails, advocates, and incarcerated individuals, potentially necessitating special legislation; *and*

WHEREAS, Every eligible voter should have equal access to voting, yet systemic barriers disproportionately affecting people of color, LGBTQ+ individuals, and those with disabilities or mental health challenges continue to prevent hundreds of incarcerated voters from reliably obtaining ballots, voting information, and civic education; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to convene all relevant public officials and administrative authorities responsible for overseeing the implementation of jail-based voting in Suffolk County jails.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AUDIT THE DISTRIBUTION OF
LOCAL, STATE, AND FEDERAL GRANTS TO SMALL BUSINESSES**

WHEREAS, As of 2016, there were more than 40,000 small businesses in the City of Boston, and of these small businesses, “micro” businesses—those with fewer than ten employees and less than \$500,000 in revenue per year—accounted for about 85%; *and*

WHEREAS, Small businesses are a critical component of Boston’s economy, as they provide jobs, promote innovation, and contribute to the unique character of our neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, The Committee on Small Businesses and Professional Licensure held a hearing on July 11, 2024, where numerous small business owners along Blue Hill Avenue and across the city expressed a lack of transparency about and access to grants and requested local, state, and federal financial relief; *and*

WHEREAS, An audit of the processes and procedures for distributing these grants will provide insights into the efficiency, fairness, and impact of these programs, and will identify areas for improvement; *and*

WHEREAS, Transparency and accountability in grant management processes, which are conducted by the Auditing Department, are both essential to guaranteeing that funds are allocated and dispersed responsibly and in a timely manner, prioritizing businesses with the highest needs to sustain their operations and growth; *and*

WHEREAS, Grants such as but not limited to the Boston Contracting Opportunity Fund, Biz-M-Power Crowdfunding Program, and Small Business Relief Fund offer financial assistance; *and*

WHEREAS, Ensuring the equitable distribution of local, state, and federal grants is crucial to supporting Boston’s diverse small business community, particularly those owned by women, minorities, immigrants, and other historically marginalized groups; *and*

WHEREAS,

It is the role of the Boston City Council to: examine municipal finances; evaluate the efficiency, effectiveness, and accessibility of the City budget; review the administrative processes of departments, agencies, and programs; establish goals and objectives; collect and analyze data; and ensure funds are managed responsibly and effectively; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to audit the City of Boston's accountability, transparency, and accessibility regarding the processes of distribution of local, state, and federal grants. Representatives from the Boston City Departments of Finance, Auditing, all other related departments, and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AUDIT GOVERNMENT
TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY TOWARDS
SURVEILLANCE EQUIPMENT**

- WHEREAS,** One of the fundamental responsibilities of the Boston City Council to to ensure that there is accountability, transparency, and accessibility in all city business; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In December of 2021, an article was published detailing the purchase and use of a cell site simulator purchased by the Boston Police Department using a “hidden pot of money,” likely obtained through civil asset forfeiture; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to the article, the cell site simulator, also known as a “stingray” was purchased by the BPD in 2019 for a total price of \$627,000 and mimics a commercial cell phone tower, allowing the BPD to access a person’s location and potentially identifying information from their cell phone; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The purchase was not disclosed to the City Council during its budget deliberations and the only city revue for the purchase of this equipment came from the Procurement Department; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to internal investigative reports, there have been 98 instances since 2017 in which BPD has used a cell site simulator. Forty-one of those involved “exigent” circumstances in which a warrant wasn’t necessary; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Although the Boston City Council passed a surveillance oversight ordinance in 2021, it is unclear if notice of this purchase would have ever been made public; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A number of purchases made by the Boston Police Department, and other departments, even those using public money, are often redacted and made inaccessible to the public; *and*

WHEREAS, Our downtown, and the police districts of Roxbury, Dorchester, and the South End — neighborhoods largely made up of residents of color — each have more than 100 cameras; *and*

WHEREAS, In February 2024, The Boston City Council voted to accept a \$13 million anti-terrorism grant administered by U.S. Department of Homeland Security; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council has an obligation to audit and ensure accountability, transparency, accessibility, and oversight over City Departments especially in regards to technology used to surveil Boston residents; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to audit government transparency, accessibility, and oversight over surveillance technology. Representatives from the City of Boston, including Boston Police Department, as well as community advocates, including the ACLU, are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2024

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AUDIT THE CITY OF BOSTON'S PROCUREMENT PROCESSES, PROCEDURES AND PROGRESS

- WHEREAS,** In 2020, the City of Boston published a Disparity Study, which indicated a disproportionate underutilization of minority- and women-owned businesses; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In response to the 2020 Disparity Study results, in February of 2021, the Mayor issued an Executive Order to address and ameliorate the outcomes by committing to a utilization goal of at least 25% contracting with minority- and women-owned businesses across all contracts awarded in any fiscal year; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Given these stated goals, it is imperative to discern if minority and women-owned businesses, small or micro, attempting to contract with the City of Boston are able to compete with businesses that are more knowledgeable and experienced with the City of Boston's procurement processes, practices and procedures; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Executive Order attempts to remedy both the historical and current barriers minority- and women-owned businesses encounter when interacting with the city's contracting processes. It is essential to determine if there are any compounding disadvantages that need to be further identified and properly addressed through an audit of the City of Boston's Chapter 30B procurement processes, practices and procedures; *and*
- WHEREAS,** An important component to creating access to opportunities for minority and women-owned businesses is an effective communication strategy which targets minority- and women-owned businesses to ensure that a broader population of businesses are notified about the opportunities to bid on contracts from all city agencies and quasi-public organizations funded by the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Furthermore, the cultural sensitivity of these advertisements, outreach efforts, and technical assistance support, are also important and necessary steps to ensure small, micro, minority- and women-owned businesses are fully aware of existing

and future contracting opportunities, and thus, the effectiveness of these efforts must be evaluated; *and*

WHEREAS,

Once a micro or small business is given an opportunity to do business with the City of Boston, working capital is often an issue. The payment schedule is inconsistent with the financial constraints of many micro and small businesses and a quick pay policy for small businesses needs to be explored in order to ensure minority- and women-owned, micro or small businesses have the cash flow needed to fully participate and scale; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the City of Boston's procurement practices and enact a prompt pay policy for micro and small businesses. Representatives from the administration, including the Administration and Finance, Auditing, Procurement, and Economic Opportunity and Inclusion. Community advocates such as the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts, Amplify Latinx and local organizations and members of the public are also encouraged to testify.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**ORDER FOR A HEARING ON GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY,
TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCESSIBILITY OF DECISION MAKING
PROTOCOLS IN CITY GOVERNMENT**

WHEREAS, Sherry Arnstein, writing in 1969 about citizen involvement in planning processes in the United States, described a “ladder of citizen participation” that ranges from non-participation to full citizen control, where people handle the entire process of planning, policy-making, and program management. Arnstein’s framework underscores the importance of inclusive decision-making processes, particularly in matters that impact local communities; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston develops and dedicates substantial resources and conducts in-depth decision-making related to housing, education, public safety, public health, and zoning, but these resources and decision-making processes are often inaccessible to the individuals and communities most directly impacted by the systemic issues these initiatives aim to address; *and*

WHEREAS, Protocols and procedures in the City of Boston, established through the city charter, legislative action, or the discretion of city officials, have created a civic culture where individuals with the most privileged access often hold disproportionate influence over decision-making, while many residents feel excluded from or unheard in shaping policies and programs that affect them; *and*

WHEREAS, The renovation of White Stadium in Franklin Park has raised concerns about how effectively large-scale city projects incorporate meaningful community input. The project’s significant cost increase—from \$50 million to \$91 million—has highlighted questions regarding transparency, the accessibility and inclusiveness of decision-making processes, and how these decisions align with the needs and priorities of neighboring communities such as Roxbury and Mattapan; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) is conducting Squares and Streets planning and rezoning initiatives in several neighborhoods now and with a total of 17 neighborhoods in the future. Concerns have been raised about

the inclusiveness and effectiveness of community engagement in these efforts, as participation data shows underrepresentation of protected demographic groups relative to neighborhood populations, suggesting insufficient outreach and equitable access, alongside a lack of specific measures to prevent the potential displacement often linked to rezoning, highlighting the need for more inclusive and proactive planning processes.; *and*

WHEREAS, The Housing Accelerator Fund, created through a \$110 million appropriation of unrestricted free cash, is intended to address financing gaps for approved housing projects, including the Bunker Hill Housing Redevelopment. However, questions remain about how effectively this fund is aligned with anti-displacement goals, equitable access to affordable housing, and transparency in its implementation and oversight; *and*

WHEREAS, The modernization of Article 80 development processes by the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) has raised concerns about reductions in public participation, the transparency of decision-making protocols, and the inclusion of protections against displacement and inequity in housing and development outcomes; *and*

WHEREAS, Since its creation, the Boston City Council Committee on Government Accountability, Transparency, and Accessibility has worked to review the efficiency, effectiveness, and accessibility of city operations and programs. This includes the importance of examining decision-making protocols for projects like the White Stadium renovation, Squares and Streets up-zoning, Article 80 modernization, and the Housing Accelerator Fund to ensure they align with legislative intent and community priorities; *and*

WHEREAS, More work remains to ensure that the City of Boston’s departments and agencies adopt accountable, transparent, and accessible decision-making processes that center the voices of all residents, particularly those in historically underserved neighborhoods; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing on Community Engagement, Transparency, and Accountability in City Development Decision-Making to examine how the White Stadium renovation, Squares and Streets rezoning, the Housing Accelerator Fund, and Article 80 modernization, involve residents in decision-making, to review how initiatives like the White Stadium renovation, Squares and Streets rezoning, the Housing Accelerator Fund, and Article 80 modernization engage residents, ensure transparency in public-private partnerships, and align with legislative goals to benefit affected neighborhoods.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-FIVE

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AUDIT THE CITY OF BOSTON’S HIRING, FIRING
AND PROMOTION POLICIES, PRACTICES AND PROCEDURES**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is the largest employer in the city, with more than 17,000 employees across various departments, including the Boston Police Department, Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Health Commission, and all other vital City departments. The City of Boston is also one of Massachusetts’ largest employers; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston prides itself on being an inclusive equal opportunity employer, and claims to be committed to creating a diverse and inclusive environment, stating that qualified applicants will be considered regardless of their sex, race, age, religion, color, national origin, ancestry, physical or mental disability, genetic information, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, military and veteran status, or other protected category; *and*

WHEREAS, Although the City of Boston has made substantial strides to diversify its workforce, more can still be done to better reflect Boston’s population, particularly as it pertains to leadership roles and corresponding wages and salaries; *and*

WHEREAS, A 2024 analysis by *The Boston Globe* revealed that among the top 100 highest-paid city employees, only four were women, despite women making up more than half of the city’s workforce. Additionally, 69 of the top 100 earners were white, even though people of color make up nearly half of Boston’s employees; *and*

WHEREAS, Median salaries reveal significant racial and gender disparities, with white employees earning a median salary of \$123,000 compared to \$88,000 for Black employees, and men earning a median salary of \$121,000 compared to \$95,000 for women; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Police Department (BPD) dominates the city’s highest earners, with 79 of the top 100 spots occupied by BPD employees. While efforts are underway

to diversify the workforce, including a pledge to increase the number of women on the force to 30% by 2030, significant disparities remain; *and*

WHEREAS, The removal of Sergeant Detective Eddy Chrispin, a 25-year veteran of the Boston Police Department and a respected community leader, from the Police Command Staff has raised questions about transparency and equity in the Boston Police Department’s hiring, firing, and promotion practices, particularly as it relates to leaders of color; *and*

WHEREAS, In August of 2022, one month before Superintendent Mary Skipper formally began her duties, 15 retired principals and other administrators of color signed a letter alleging that BPS has placed a disproportionate number of administrators of color on leave and is subjecting them to a process known as investigatory meetings in an effort to terminate them or force them to resign; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2019, Boston Teachers Union (BTU) officials released a study that found that Black, Latino, and older teachers were more likely to receive negative performance evaluation ratings, reflecting broader systemic inequities within BPS; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Police Department has long struggled to reflect the city’s population. In 2024, nearly 65% of uniformed officers are white, while minority groups remain underrepresented—21.2% are Black, 11.3% are Latinx, and 2.6% are Asian—and major diversity gaps persist at higher ranks, where 79% of sergeants and 97% of lieutenants are white, largely due to promotions through the state civil service exam process; *and*

WHEREAS, These patterns raise serious concerns about transparency, accountability, and fairness in the city’s hiring, firing, and promotion practices, particularly in ensuring that diverse employees have equitable opportunities for career advancement and leadership roles; *and*

WHEREAS, It is the responsibility of the Boston City Council to ensure the City of Boston’s hiring, firing and promotion practices, protocols and procedures are equitable and inclusive; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to audit the City of Boston’s hiring, firing and promotion practices, protocols and procedures. Representatives from the administration, including the Boston Police Department, Boston Fire Department, Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Health Commission, Human Resources, and Equity and Inclusion. Lawyers for Civil Rights, and members of the public are also encouraged to testify.

Filed in Council: March 27, 2024

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE HOMEOWNERSHIP VOUCHER PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The escalating housing costs in Boston disproportionately affect long-term residents and middle-class families, exacerbating the racial homeownership gap; and

WHEREAS: Boston's homeownership rates reveal significant racial disparities, with 41% of white households owning homes compared to 31% of Black households and only 16% of Hispanic/Latinx households, further widening the racial wealth gap; and

WHEREAS: Home prices in Boston continue to escalate, with the median home price being 11.5 times the income of Black households, 13.6 times the income of Latinx households, and 5.5 times the income of white households, making homeownership increasingly inaccessible for many residents; and

WHEREAS: Since the pandemic, home prices have grown at a faster pace than rents, creating a tight housing market with extremely low homeowner and rental vacancy rates, further limiting opportunities for aspiring homebuyers; and

WHEREAS: Half of renters in the Boston region are considered cost-burdened, spending more than 30% of their income on housing, which disproportionately affects minority households and leaves little room for saving toward homeownership; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has dedicated funds and resources to assist income-eligible, first-time homebuyers through programs such as the ONE+ Boston Mortgage Program, which increases buying power for residents, and the Boston Housing Authority's Section 8 to Homeownership Program, now expanded under the BHA First Home Program. This program allows Section 8 voucher holders to transition from renters to homeowners by subsidizing mortgage payments for homes purchased within the BHA jurisdiction. Additionally, households purchasing homes in Boston are eligible for enhanced down payment assistance provided by the City of Boston, further strengthening pathways to homeownership; and

WHEREAS: The First Home Program has successfully closed 58 homes for families, with an additional 10 households having accepted offers and progressing toward closing, totaling 68 homes for families involved. Of these, 54 households receive

mortgage Housing Assistance Payments (HAP) via housing vouchers, including nine (9) former Public Housing residents; and

WHEREAS: Of the 58 home purchase closures in the First Home Program, 42 households closed on their homes during 2024, demonstrating significant progress in assisting families to achieve homeownership; and

WHEREAS: Both the First Home Program and Citywide Voucher Program are on track to support a total of 73 successful homebuyers, showcasing the effective utilization of housing vouchers to assist families in achieving homeownership; and

WHEREAS: There remains a pressing need for additional funding to expand these programs and provide homeownership opportunities to more families in need; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to explore avenues for securing additional funding and expanding the Citywide Voucher Program to accommodate the homeownership aspirations of all qualified applicants. Representatives from the Administration, the Mayor's Office of Housing, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 3, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS EFFORTS TO CANCEL MEDICAL DEBT

- WHEREAS,** The pervasive issue of medical debt significantly impacts the lives of thousands of residents across Massachusetts, manifesting in detrimental effects on credit scores, financial security, and psychological well-being; *and*
- WHEREAS,** For many, even despite having health insurance, families across the Commonwealth and the City face substantial out-of-pocket expenses due to high deductibles and uncovered medical procedures, where according to Bankrate's Annual Emergency Fund Report, the majority (57%) of U.S. adults are currently unable to afford a \$1,000 emergency expense; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Medical debt is recognized as a leading cause of personal bankruptcy in the United States, disproportionately affecting low-income individuals, families, and disproportionately Black and Brown communities, thereby perpetuating cycles of financial illiteracy and health inequity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Medical bills are a significant factor in bankruptcy filings, where a Kaiser Family Foundation report showed that 41% of U.S. citizens carry some sort of medical debt, and 24% were considering bankruptcy to solve a medical debt issue.; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A study by the Atrius Health Equity Foundation showed that one in eight Massachusetts residents faces the burden of medical debt, and 20% of Black residents and 16% of Hispanic residents report that someone in their family has medical debt, compared with 12% of White residents.; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Attorney General is currently looking at new ways to reduce medical debt and address illegal medical debt collection practices, including legislation to ban medical bills from being included on credit reports, aiming to protect consumers and give relief; *and*
- WHEREAS,** initiatives such as Colorado's legislation to remove medical debt from credit reports and New York City's plan to invest \$18 million to erase \$2 billion in medical debt illustrate the variety of approaches being explored to combat this issue; **NOW,**
THEREFORE BE IT
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review the impacts, challenges, and successes of municipal and state-level medical debt cancellation initiatives, and that the Boston Public Health Commission, state and municipal agencies, non-profits, and interested parties be invited to testify.

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING EQUITY IN CITY CONTRACTS

WHEREAS: The Disparity Study in City Contracting commissioned by Mayor Marty Walsh analyzed over 47,000 contracts awarded by the City from 2014 to 2019 and reported that of those contracts, 11% were awarded to minority- and women-owned businesses, and only 0.4% reached Black businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, Mayor Walsh's Executive Order Establishing Equitable Procurement Goals in Support of Minority- and Woman-Owned Businesses in 2021 set city goals for MWBE contracts at 25% (MBE 10% and WBE 15%); *and*

WHEREAS, The Executive Order also required that every department must develop and submit a plan for racial- and gender-conscious goals in procurement; *and*

WHEREAS, Under Mayor Wu's administration, the City of Boston relaunched the Contracting Opportunity Fund with an additional \$800,000 to support small, local businesses in bidding on City contracts as part of a broader initiative to address discrimination and achieve annual spending goals of 25% for women- and minority-owned businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston allocated \$151 million, or 14%, to certified MWBEs for contracts during the 2023 Fiscal Year, marking a substantial increase from 6% in the 2022 Fiscal Year, and contributing to the City's goal of 25% discretionary spending with diverse firms; *and*

WHEREAS, The 2023 Contracting Opportunity Fund disbursed approximately \$750,000 to 51 recipients, with grants of up to \$15,000 each, aiming to enhance operational capacity for small, local businesses pursuing City contracts across priority sectors; *and*

WHEREAS, Through the Contracting Opportunity Fund, the City awarded support to certified women (WBE), minority (MBE), veteran-owned (VSBE), and small and local businesses (SLBE) within the City of Boston that wish to compete for City contracting opportunities in 2023; *and*

WHEREAS, Mayor Wu initiated the Supplier Diversity Program Week to further create transparency around supplier diversity and share the City's progress. The Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion (OEI), Department of Supplier

Diversity (DSD), and Procurement Department have released the FY23 Equity in City Contracts Report, providing insight into City contracting and how supplier diversity programs, tools, and initiatives have supported certified minority- and women-owned businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, Many private enterprise businesses have procedures in place to assist MWBEs through application processes and policies to resize and restructure contract opportunities to allow for increased MWBE participation; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has made progress toward its goals and will benefit from continued collaboration as we continue to strive to make City contracts more equitable; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the status of increasing the procurement of city contracts by MWBEs and that representatives from the Mayor’s Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, Equity Cabinet, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE & ENRIQUE PEPÉN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING VOTER ACCESSIBILITY AND ELECTION PREPAREDNESS

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is committed to ensuring accessible, reliable and secure voting for all residents; *and*

WHEREAS, On Election Day, November 5, 2024, multiple polling locations, including those in Hyde Park, Roslindale, and West Roxbury, experienced ballot shortages, leading to significant delays, voter confusion and frustration, and instances of disenfranchisement, especially impacting Boston’s communities of color; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Police Department and Elections Commission coordinated efforts to hand-deliver additional ballots to affected locations in response to these shortages; however, the combination of high turnout, extended wait times, and logistical challenges has underscored the need for a thorough review of current election procedures to restore confidence in our electoral processes; *and*

WHEREAS, Due to the urgency of addressing these events and their impact on the voting rights of Boston residents, an emergency declaration is necessary to expedite the filing and consideration of this order; *and*

WHEREAS, It is imperative that Boston conduct a comprehensive review of election procedures, including but not limited to ballot availability, staffing levels, site preparedness, and accessibility accommodations, to identify and resolve systemic issues; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss challenges related to voter accessibility and election preparedness in the City of Boston, whereby the Boston Election Commission, the Secretary of State’s Office, advocacy organizations, and members of the public shall be invited to testify.



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

HEARING ORDER TO EXPLORE THE EFFECTIVENESS OF HIGH-DOSAGE TUTORING AND OTHER ACADEMIC RECOVERY STRATEGIES

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated existing educational inequities, resulting in significant learning loss. However high-dosage tutoring has been highlighted by several studies as a promising intervention for academic recovery, showing potential for accelerating student recovery in mathematics and literacy through frequent, small-group, or one-on-one instruction; *and*

WHEREAS, Advocates of high-dosage tutoring point to its ability to provide individualized support, which some studies suggest can result in substantial learning gains, particularly when students receive at least three sessions per week; *and*

WHEREAS, There are concerns regarding scalability, sustainability, cost, and feasibility of high-dosage tutoring programs, with research indicating that the effectiveness of such programs diminishes as they expand to serve larger numbers of students; *and*

WHEREAS, While some cities, such as Chicago, have reported promising outcomes from high-dosage tutoring initiatives, other districts have found mixed results, leading to ongoing debates about the best models and methods for academic recovery interventions; *and*

WHEREAS, In Boston, high-dosage tutoring has been piloted on a small scale, and there is an opportunity to explore its potential for broader adoption; our office has partnered with a BPS school and a tutoring service on this exact matter; further study is needed to determine whether the benefits seen in smaller programs can be replicated at a district-wide level; *and*

WHEREAS, It is important to consider a range of evidence, including both the successes and challenges of high-dosage tutoring, as well as input from educators, students, and community members, to assess whether this intervention is a viable long-term solution for academic recovery in Boston Public Schools; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore the effectiveness and scalability of high-dosage tutoring and tutoring in general within Boston Public Schools, examining both the potential benefits and limitations of this approach, with the aim of determining whether and how such a program could be expanded to better support students who have experienced significant learning loss.

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS LOUIJEUNE AND COLETTA-ZAPATA



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE CITY OF BOSTON'S RESPONSE TO SEXUAL ASSAULT, DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, AND RELATED RESOURCES FOR SURVIVORS

WHEREAS, Sexual violence remains a pervasive issue in the United States, with more than 463,000 individuals aged 12 or older becoming victims of rape or sexual assault annually, and with the highest risk among individuals aged 12-34 years old; and

WHEREAS, Domestic violence, which often involves a pattern of abusive behaviors such as physical, emotional, psychological, and sexual abuse, affects individuals in intimate or family relationships, with one in four women and one in nine men experiencing severe intimate partner violence during their lifetime

WHEREAS, Sexual assault and domestic violence affect individuals across all demographics, including race, gender, disability, and age, highlighting the need for intersectional and inclusive support systems and resources for all survivors; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston must expand access to services for survivors of domestic violence, including safe housing, legal support, mental health services, and crisis counseling, as these resources are often underfunded and under-resourced; *and*

WHEREAS, Sexual assault and domestic violence survivors face an array of physical, emotional, and psychological impacts, such as guilt, fear, anger, avoidance, and trust issues, further necessitating trauma-informed, survivor-centered responses from the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Collaboration between law enforcement, advocacy organizations, healthcare providers, and community-based organizations is essential to improve the City's response to both sexual assault and domestic violence cases; **NOW,
THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,**

RESOLVED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the City of Boston's current efforts in responding to sexual assault, review the impacts of initiatives, assess the adequacy of survivor support services, and explore additional measures to improve the prevention of and response to sexual violence across the city.



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON THE NEEDS AND SERVICES FOR RECENT MIGRANT POPULATIONS

WHEREAS, The City of Boston, and the State of Massachusetts, has become a beacon of hope for migrant families seeking safety and a better life, many of whom are fleeing unimaginable hardships; *and*

WHEREAS, The state of emergency declared in August 2023 by Governor Maura Healey highlights the urgency and necessity of addressing the state's shelter system where the demand for emergency shelter and services has seen an unprecedented increase; *and*

WHEREAS, The increase in families seeking refuge in our state continues even as Massachusetts' shelters have currently reached a capacity limit, leading to people being turned away, including vulnerable children and pregnant women;

WHEREAS, Despite a lack of capacity in Boston and most other towns and cities in Massachusetts, these families have shown remarkable resilience and courage in the face of adversity; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston and Commonwealth of Massachusetts must continue to ensure we are working with our community and government partners like the Immigrant Family Services Institute, the Brazilian Workers Center, and the Massachusetts Migrant Families Relief Fund, established by the United Way of Massachusetts Bay and The Boston Foundation, offering support and assistance to these new arrivals; *and*

WHEREAS, Community and state partners have urged the federal government to take action to address this crisis by streamlining the work authorization process and passing comprehensive immigration reform, acknowledging the desperate need of many new arrivals to work and thus empowering them to contribute to our city's vibrant economy and culture; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston's situation is emblematic of the challenges faced by Massachusetts' Emergency Assistance system, which, despite expanding to over 80 communities and adding thousands of new units of emergency assistance housing, is still unable to meet the escalating demand; *and*

WHEREAS, In the spirit of unity and shared humanity, the city of Boston, alongside state and federal partners, must continue to be dedicated to addressing this emergency, including the need for more affordable housing and fair, humane immigration policies; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the needs and services for migrant populations and that appropriate individuals and organizations attend including the Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement, Mayor's Office of Housing, Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition, Massachusetts Office for Immigrants and Refugees, and others be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: January 6, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE STATE OF ANTI-DISPLACEMENT AS TO BOSTON'S ACQUISITION OPPORTUNITY PROGRAM

WHEREAS: The City of Boston's Acquisition Opportunity Program ("AOP") was created in 2016 to support the acquisition of existing rental housing in order to prevent displacement and preserve its affordability, by helping mission-driven housing developers, community development corporations, community land trusts, and nonprofit organizations acquire multi-family properties; *and*

WHEREAS, AOP continues to be a critical tool for preserving and funding long-term affordable housing and preventing the displacement of tenants vulnerable to the forces of gentrification and housing commodification; *and*

WHEREAS, A majority of Boston residents are renters, and nearly half of them are rent-burdened, which means they spend more than 30% of their household income on rent; *and*

WHEREAS, Housing unaffordability and insecurity, eviction, and displacement severely threaten the economic, physical and mental health of affected individuals, especially our Black & Brown residents, and severely disrupt their ability to thrive academically, professionally, and socio-emotionally; *and*

WHEREAS, Many nonprofit developers and community land trusts lack sufficient capital resources to compete for acquisition of housing units in the speculation-driven private market, and AOP has helped to facilitate the acquisition and affordability preservation of hundreds of units of housing, facilitating residents' ability to remain in their homes during periods of gentrification, however the pressing need for more affordable housing continues to escalate; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the state of anti-displacement as to the Acquisition Opportunity Program, and be it that the Mayor's Office of Housing, Boston Planning and Development Agency, community development corporations, community land trusts, real estate developers, non-profits, and all other interested parties be invited to attend and testify.



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON A CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATIVE CITYWIDE STRATEGY FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VIOLENCE PREVENTION

WHEREAS, The discontinued SOAR (Street Outreach, Advocacy, and Response) Boston program was aimed at violence intervention, reducing recidivism, and supporting gang-involved youth by building meaningful relationships and facilitating employment and education, until the program was discontinued in 2022 as part of the city's decision to reshape its approach to youth violence prevention; *and*

WHEREAS, Incidents of youth violence are symptomatic of deeper societal issues, including the lack of opportunity and support for the city's youth, thereby necessitating a comprehensive and sustained response from all sectors of the community; *and*

WHEREAS, The philanthropic and non-profit sector plays an indispensable role in funding and supporting initiatives aimed at combating youth violence, offering resources, expertise, and innovative approaches that complement and enhance public sector efforts, and thus their continued and increased engagement is essential for the success of citywide violence prevention efforts; *and*

WHEREAS, The pervasive issue of youth violence is fundamentally a manifestation of a lack of accessible opportunities, with studies indicating a direct correlation between the expansion of community engagement and the reduction of violence; *and*

WHEREAS, There exists a critical need to reconceptualize our approach to youth, not as problems to be contained but as reservoirs of potential who are eager to contribute positively to their community, if given the chance and the right support; *and*

WHEREAS, Mayor Wu recently convened a multi-day workshop on evidence-informed violence intervention strategies, which resulted in a draft comprehensive violence intervention strategy; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the City of Boston hold a hearing on a cross-sector citywide youth violence prevention strategy that aims to scale up community and youth activities, mentorship programs, and job opportunities, particularly in communities historically impacted by gun violence, acknowledging the heightened need for engagement in prevention, programming, and employment.



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON THE CIVIL RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES OF RETURNING CITIZENS AND RE-ENTRY INTO THEIR BOSTON COMMUNITIES.

- WHEREAS,** Every year more than 3,000 people return to the City of Boston from prisons and jails, and most return from incarceration without a permanent place to live, stable income, or even a change of clothes ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Parole Commission found that Black and Latinx individuals are significantly overrepresented in and disproportionately affected by the criminal legal system in Massachusetts, and studies show people of color are more likely to serve longer sentences, even after accounting for criminal history, demographics, initial charge severity, court jurisdiction, and neighborhood characteristics. ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Probation fees in Massachusetts cost returning citizens more than \$20 million a year - \$65 and \$50 per month with an average probation sentence of 17-20 months and an average \$850-\$1,300 in monthly probation service fees - on top of many other court fines and fees ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Increasing affordable and transitional housing in Boston is critical to the success of re-entry: a recent Boston reentry study indicates that twelve months after prison, 43 percent of individuals were staying in transitional or marginal housing ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Even when a Parole Board grants a positive parole vote to an individual, it is not a guarantee of the individual's release as they must have an approved home plan, but a home plan is often denied because the client may not be listed as a tenant on a Section 8 lease due to federal regulations making it difficult for parolees to live with family in Section 8 housing ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The prison system has long housed and held a significant portion of people with mental health disorders, and due to the lack of specialized services, often accelerates long-term mental health consequences, and when people leave prison many suffer from those long-term mental health consequences including a set of syndromes similar to PTSD but specific to the conditions of prison known as Post Incarceration Syndrome ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** People from communities of color between the ages of 18 and 19 are nearly 11 times more likely to be imprisoned than white males the same age, and nearly half are rearrested within eight years of their release ; *and*

- WHEREAS,** The vast majority, about 98 percent of returning citizens, don't have a valid driver's license, on average owing hundreds of dollars to get their licenses reinstated, and need assistance getting other important documents ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** 27 percent of returning citizens are looking for a job, but are still unemployed, and according to one study, a criminal record reduces the likelihood of a callback or job offer by nearly 50 percent, thus more than a quarter of formerly incarcerated people are unemployed ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Studies show that correctional education and post correctional education programs are highly cost-effective pathways for reducing recidivism and improving postrelease employment outcomes. ; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Older returning citizens face particular challenges, as they are less likely to recidivate when compared to their younger counterparts, yet they experience higher rates of unemployment, homelessness, loneliness, and chronic medical conditions;
- WHEREAS,** Massachusetts is one of 14 states that prohibit people from voting while incarcerated for a felony in prison but return the right to vote immediately upon release, however evidence suggests that many reentering assume they remain disenfranchised upon release, and too often are not informed of their voting rights;
- WHEREAS,** Formerly incarcerated people struggle to find employment because of a criminal record and stigma, where monthly monetary assistance or guaranteed income stipends could be a mechanism to help rebuild and reestablish their personal and professional lives; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Those served by the Office of Returning Citizens have grown significantly since its inception in 2017, and the City Council has consistently advocated for expanding the breadth and reach of the office, including an investment of over a million dollars in the Fiscal Year 2023 operating budget modernizing the Office of Returning Citizens; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Our prison and punishment system upholds a structurally racist society by disproportionately imprisoning those in Black and Latinx communities and perpetuates those inequities by providing limited resources for social and economic growth opportunity upon release from incarceration; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the civil rights and liberties of returning citizens and their re-entry into their Boston communities, and that the Office of Returning Citizens, related departments, government entities, non-profits, and interested individuals be invited to testify.

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE AND TANIA FERNANDES
ANDERSON



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON DISCRIMINATION IN LENDING AND APPRAISALS

WHEREAS, According to 2020 Census figures, Boston is experiencing a net departure of Black residents, where approximately 8,800 fewer Black people are calling Boston home in the last ten years. Specifically, Dorchester saw a 13 percent decline in Black residents, Mattapan a 5 percent decrease, and Roxbury saw a 12 percent decline in Black residents over the last decade, according to Boston Planning & Development Agency data.

WHEREAS, Most first-time Black homebuyers end up in only a handful of communities in Massachusetts, 42 percent in just five communities, predominantly in Brockton, Randolph, and South Shore cities according to a 2021 report by the Partnership for Financial Equity (previously Massachusetts Community Banking Council) and the UMass Donahue Institute Report; *and*

WHEREAS, In Brockton 65 percent of home loans went to Black borrowers, even though they are only 44 percent of the city's overall population, and in Boston only 7 percent of home loans went to Black borrowers though Black residents make up 22.7 percent of the city's overall population. Thus in raw numbers, nearly twice as many Black households received a loan in Brockton than in Boston, though they are one-seventh the size of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, The 2021 Partnership for Financial Equity report found that Black households were far more likely than White households to be rejected for a loan, even when accounting for control measures such as levels of income. The report also found that large institutional banks such as Bank of America and Wells Fargo are in the top 5 for total loans, but below the top 10 in terms of loans to both low and moderate income and Black and Hispanic/Latinx borrowers, whereas community banks issued a higher share of loans to low and moderate income, and Hispanic/Latinx and Black borrowers than large and regional banks; *and*

WHEREAS, A 2021 analysis by Freddie Mac found that 12.5% of homes appraised in Black communities were valued at less than the original cost of constructing the home. That figure compares to 7.4% of homes in White neighborhoods and as 9.4% of homes in Latino areas, and other studies showing on average \$48,000 less per

home, amounting to \$156 billion in cumulative losses nationally for Black owner-occupied homes in majority Black neighborhoods,

WHEREAS, The Equality of Opportunity Project, using combined tax and census data, found that neighborhoods in metropolitan areas where the share of the population is fifty percent Black are valued at roughly half the price as homes in neighborhoods with no Black residents, and furthermore those neighborhoods are more segregated and produce less upward mobility for Black children who grow up in those communities

WHEREAS, Banks and mortgage companies are critical to supporting a steady supply of loan products, like Boston ONE+ and FHA mortgages, however overall the number of FHA loans has decreased by 25.7 percent from 2010 to 2020, and in Boston only 13 percent of FHA loans went to low- and moderate-income borrowers, and nearly half of Boston's ONE+ mortgages were provided by one bank that has since exited the real estate lending market.

WHEREAS, Federal and State laws prohibit discrimination in the sale and rental of housing by property owners, landlords, property managers, mortgage lenders, real estate agents, and appraisers based on a wide variety of factors, including race and source of income; and are bound by the Fair Housing Act of 1968 not to discriminate, and can thus be held legally liable if they do.

WHEREAS, The Department of Housing and Urban Development's Fair Housing guidelines instruct municipalities to enact local public fair housing enforcement strategies to combat housing discrimination and segregation; and

WHEREAS, Not only are housing demographic shifts accelerating the loss of Boston's people of color looking to buy their first homes in Boston, but discrimination in lending and appraisals also account for both barriers to homeownership and wealth devaluation for Black and Latinx residents ; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss strategies to combat discrimination in lending and appraisals, and that the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Partnership for Financial Equity, and relevant departments, banks, including community banks, appraisers, government entities, non-profits, and persons be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: January 6, 2025

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR SHARON DURKAN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

A TEXT AMENDMENT TO THE BOSTON ZONING CODE REGARDING THE BULFINCH TRIANGLE DISTRICT USE REGULATIONS

WHEREAS, The Bulfinch Triangle District, located in Boston’s West End, is designated under the National Register of Historic Places, originating in the early 19th century when renowned architect Charles Bulfinch designed its street layout on land reclaimed from the old Mill Pond, also known as North Cove the last remaining portion of the original West End neighborhood; *and*

WHEREAS, The elevated JFK expressway formerly occupied one-third of the district, but the completion of the Big Dig project revitalized the Bulfinch Triangle with the introduction of the Rose Kennedy Greenway and new residential and commercial developments; *and*

WHEREAS, The Bulfinch Triangle’s location within the West End neighborhood, with its proximity to public transit, employment centers, and amenities, makes it an ideal candidate to support increased residential development while preserving its historic character; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston faces a critical housing shortage, necessitating measures to increase housing supply and affordability for all residents; *and*

WHEREAS, The current zoning code designates ‘Residential Uses’ as a conditional use in the Bulfinch Triangle, thereby imposing additional regulatory hurdles that hamper potential housing production thereby creating preference for developers that have the ability to withstand the risk associated with obtaining a variance; *and*

WHEREAS, Streamlining zoning regulations pertaining to the Bulfinch Triangle to make ‘Residential Uses’ an allowed use helps facilitate the creation of additional housing units and aligns with the City and State’s broader planning goals of promoting mixed-use neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, The proposed zoning amendment reduces reliance on conditional approvals that delay development timelines, thereby contributing to the City’s goals of addressing housing scarcity; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED, That the Boston City Council, by and through Councilor Sharon Durkan, submits a petition to amend the text of the Boston Zoning Code.

Filed on: January 3, 2025

Filed on: TBD

Text Amendment Application No. ____

Boston City Council

TO THE BOSTON PLANNING DEPARTMENT AND ZONING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF BOSTON:

Boston City Council through and by Boston City Councilor Sharon Durkan petition to amend the text of the Boston Zoning Code as follows:

1. In Article 46, Section 9-3. - Bulfinch Triangle District Use Regulations, Conditional Uses
 - a. Strike part (d), “Residential Uses. Multifamily dwelling; artist's live/work space; apartment house; group residence, limited; lodging or boarding house; temporary dwelling structure; group care residence, general; and any dwelling converted for more families, provided that any nonconformity of such structure as to floor area ratio is no greater after conversion than prior to conversion. Residential uses include any affordable dwelling units, including but not limited to rental units, condominiums, and limited equity share cooperatives.”

2. In Article 46, Section 9-2. - Bulfinch Triangle District Use Regulations, Allowed Uses
 - a. Insert part (t), “Residential Uses. Multifamily dwelling; artist's live/work space; apartment house; group residence, limited; lodging or boarding house; temporary dwelling structure; group care residence, general; and any dwelling converted for more families, provided that any nonconformity of such structure as to floor area ratio is no greater after conversion than prior to conversion. Residential uses include any affordable dwelling units, including but not limited to rental units, condominiums, and limited equity share cooperatives.”

Petitioner: Boston City Council

By: Councilor Sharon Durkan

Address: 1 City Hall Square, Suite 550, Boston, MA 02201

Telephone: 617-635-4225

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BENJAMIN J. WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

ORDER TO IMPLEMENT A NONDISCLOSURE AGREEMENTS PROHIBITION POLICY FOR BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

- WHEREAS,** Transparency and accountability promote public confidence in government; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The use of nondisclosure agreements as a condition for employment in the Boston City Council raises several important public policy concerns; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Pursuant to the Massachusetts Whistleblower Act, M.G.L. c. 149, § 185, a City Councilor cannot take any retaliatory action if a staffer discloses or provides information to a public body of “an activity, policy or practice of” a City Councilor “that the employee reasonably believes is in violation of a law, or a rule or regulation promulgated pursuant to law, or which the employee reasonably believes poses a risk to public health, safety or the environment”; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Accordingly, to the extent that a nondisclosure agreement between a Councilor and a staffer obstructs a City employee’s ability to engage in the activities protected in the Massachusetts Whistleblower Act, such agreements would violate both State law and the public policy of the Boston City Council; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In addition, nondisclosure agreements may be used to prevent individuals from disclosing harassment, discrimination, and other worker rights violations; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In light of the negative impact nondisclosure agreements can have on the workplace and its impact on the public’s ability to be informed of unlawful activity, states such as California, New York, and Washington have passed legislation banning predispute nondisclosure agreements as a condition of employment; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Similarly, the federal Whistleblower Protection Enhancement Act of 2012, requires that any nondisclosure or nondisparagement agreement contain language expressly allowing the employee to cooperate with an investigation or to disclose information to any oversight body; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2019, in response to concerns about the negative impact of nondisclosure agreements between legislators and staffers, the Massachusetts Senate enacted Rule 11G which states: “The Senate shall not include or permit a nondisclosure,

nondisparagement or other similar clause in an agreement or contract between the Senate and a member, officer or employee. The Senate shall not seek to enforce a nondisclosure, nondisparagement or other similar clause in an existing agreement or contract between the Senate and a member, officer or employee. This rule shall not be suspended.”; *and*

WHEREAS, In the interests of the use of nondisclosure, nondisparagement or confidentiality provisions could create a power imbalance and hinder staff from coming forward with any potential concerns; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the Boston City Council adopt a Prohibition of Nondisclosure Agreements Policy as follows.

Filed on: January 8, 2025

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL



www.boston.gov/citycouncil
city.council@boston.gov

One City Hall Square ♦ 5th Floor ♦ Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ Fax: (617) 635-4203

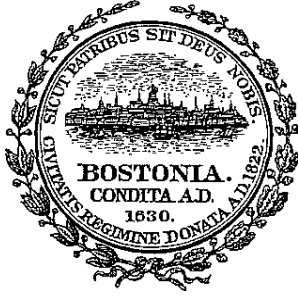
Policy Statement

Councilors shall be prohibited from requiring staff in their office, as a condition of employment, to sign or agree to any nondisclosure, nondisparagement or confidentiality provisions, or any other provision that attempts to restrict disclosure regarding unlawful acts in the workplace, including but not limited to harassment, discrimination, retaliation, or other forms of misconduct. Councilors shall not seek to enforce a nondisclosure, nondisparagement or other similar clause in an existing agreement between the City and a City Council staff member that was entered into as a condition of employment. The purpose of this policy is to promote transparency, accountability, and to promote public confidence in this body.

Implementation

It is the responsibility of the Staff Director and each City Councilor or staff designee to ensure that all employees, staff, volunteers, and interns who report to them are aware of this policy. Each Council office will ensure that a copy of this policy is provided to all of its employees, staff, volunteers, and interns on or before an employee's start date of hire, and will retain a signed record of acknowledgment that all staff members have read and understand the policy. The Staff Director will ensure the same for all Central Staff employees and volunteers.

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO-THOUSAND-AND-TWENTY-FIVE

ORDER OF COUNCILOR MURPHY

This 17F Order was originally filed on October 21, 2024, and responses have yet to be received.

ORDERED: That under the provisions of section 17F of Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as amended, and any other applicable provision of law, Her Honor, the Mayor, be, and hereby is, requested to obtain and deliver to the City Council, within one week of the receipt hereof, the following information:

- (1) A list of all new positions that have been created since December 1, 2021. This information can be obtained by using the position numbers to filter all new jobs since the specified date.
- (2) The following information:
 1. The job description
 2. The salary
 3. The city department the job falls under
 4. The funding source for each position
 5. A brief explanation of the rationale behind creating each position
 6. The specific date each position was established
 7. The current status of each position (filled, vacant, pending hiring)
 8. The qualifications or requirements for each position
 9. Any available metrics or expected outcomes related to the creation of these positions

I hereby request that the Mayor's Office and other relevant city departments, through the Mayor, provide any and all information that is available regarding this matter.

Filed in Council: January 6, 2025



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF AN ETHICS COMMITTEE AT THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS: Elected officials, including Boston City Councilors, who have been placed in positions of public trust, should demonstrate the highest standards of positive leadership; *and*

WHEREAS: The role of a City Councilor includes and is not limited to representing and serving as advocates for residents, initiating, passing and amending legislation, approving the budget, and serving as a check to the executive branch. In addition, a City Councilor, while serving in a position of public trust, should demonstrate adherence to basic rules and ethics; *and*

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council does not currently have an Ethics Committee, although Councilors and staff are currently required to attend a mandatory training annually provided by the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. There is precedent with Ethics Committees at the Massachusetts State House and the United States Congress both in the House and Senate. At the municipal level, the New York City Council has a Committee on Standards and Ethics; *and*

WHEREAS: Establishing an Ethics Committee will provide more oversight and transparency on potential violations on the Boston City Council. The residents of Boston deserve the highest standards of leadership from the Boston City Council; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Boston City Council supports the establishment of a standalone Ethics Committee to conduct additional ethics training for the members and staff of the City Council, review conflict of interest matters, and investigate any alleged violations for relevant action.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE FULL DISBURSEMENT OF UNSPENT APPROPRIATIONS FOR PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING FROM FISCAL YEARS 2023 TO 2025

- WHEREAS,* In December 2020, the City Council passed an initial order for an amendment to the Boston City Charter seeking to establish a binding participatory budgeting process funded by “no less than half of one percent (0.5%) of the proposed annual operating budget by Fiscal Year 2024, increasing to no less than 1% by Fiscal Year 2029,” but this provision was not included in the final order passed by the City Council in June 2021 following a review by the Municipal Law Unit of the Office of the Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; *and*
- WHEREAS,* Although the charter amendment language that appeared on the November 2021 ballot did not include a mandated funding allocation, the identified percentages remained a stated goal discussed by Councilors and advocates; *and*
- WHEREAS,* Over 50 community, labor, and faith organizations endorsed the proposed charter amendment to empower the City Council with equal budgetary discretion as well as to establish a citywide, binding participatory budgeting process by fiscal year 2024 (FY24), and the Board of Election Commissioners certified the November 2021 municipal election results to report that the binding charter amendment of Ballot Question 1 received 82,342 votes in support (67.4 percent); *and*
- WHEREAS,* Since adoption of the charter amendment, hundreds of residents have called on the Boston City Council and the Mayor over the past two budget cycles to provide meaningful funding for a robust participatory budgeting process; *and*
- WHEREAS,* Increased participatory budgeting funds could enable further investments to be disbursed for up to fifteen projects submitted by Boston residents, to be voted on in early 2025, which target areas such as economic development, affordable housing, community health, transit safety and mobility, environmental initiatives, neighborhood quality of life, youth jobs, recreational activities; *and*
- WHEREAS,* The FY22 adopted budget included a \$1 million non-personnel appropriation for participatory budgeting; the FY23 adopted budget included an overall \$2 million for participatory budgeting which was transferred to the Special Revenue Fund; the FY24 adopted budget included a \$1.75 million special appropriation for participatory budgeting; and the FY25 adopted budget includes approximately \$1.4 million in special appropriations for participatory budgeting; *and*

WHEREAS, Chapter 2 of the Ordinances of 2023, passed in February 2023, established the Office of Participatory Budgeting and provided that “The Office can make payments to support multi-year projects in a special revenue fund and can accept and expend additional grant funds as they are awarded”; *and*

WHEREAS, The Mayor announced in May 2024 that the participatory budgeting process would have \$2 million disbursed to projects in 2024, despite the cumulative appropriations amounting to approximately \$5 million when accounting for the FY23 funds transferred to Special Revenue Fund and special appropriations of \$1.75 million in FY24 and \$1.4 million in FY25; *and*

WHEREAS, The first round of participatory budgeting projects will be voted on in early 2025;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council supports the full disbursement of unspent appropriations for participatory budgeting from fiscal years 2023, 2024, and 2025, to support projects funded in the upcoming round of participatory budgeting;
AND, BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council supports the use of the full amount of available appropriations to be allocated for participatory budgeting each fiscal year.

Filed on: January 8, 2025



OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN
CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF A DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
AND SEXUAL ASSAULT COMMITTEE AT THE BOSTON CITY
COUNCIL

WHEREAS: The issues of domestic violence and sexual assault remain prevalent in our society including in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the City of Boston. In 2023, a report by Jane Doe Inc documented that there were 19 domestic violence homicides in Massachusetts. In the 2024 Boston Police Crime Statistics Report, there were 903 incidents of domestic aggravated assault, up by 43 incidents compared to 2023; *and*

WHEREAS: According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control in 2019, 33.9% of women and 31.7% of men in Massachusetts experience physical violence, sexual violence, and stalking by their intimate partners in their lifetimes.; *and*

WHEREAS: In Massachusetts, nearly 1 in 2 women and 1 in 4 men have experienced sexual violence, with nearly 1 in 3 women and 1 in 5 men having experienced rape, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner; *and*

WHEREAS: Eleven percent of high school students and six percent of middle school students reported being physically hurt by a date sometime in their life; *and*

WHEREAS: During the COVID-19 pandemic, there was an increase in domestic violence, as stay-at-home orders unintentionally caused many victims to be trapped in their home with their abusers. Domestic violence hotlines reported a surge in the number of calls, with victims expressing greater urgency and severity of the violence that they are experiencing; *and*

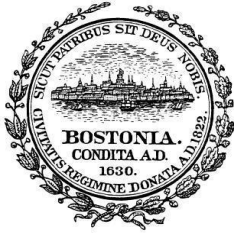
WHEREAS: According to the National Domestic Violence Hotline, the presence of a gun in domestic violence situations increases the risk of homicide for women by 500%. More than half of women killed by gun violence are killed by family members or intimate partners; *and*

WHEREAS: The issues related to domestic violence and sexual assault are underreported especially by immigrants, members of the LGBTQ community, and those who may be hesitant to contact law enforcement; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Boston City Council supports the establishment of a standalone Committee on Domestic Violence to discuss how to better support victims, ways to reduce domestic violence and sexual assault, ways to encourage and increase reporting mechanisms and increase awareness about the prevalence of this behavior.

Filed in Council: January 8, 2025



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING PROJECT LABOR AGREEMENTS AT WHITE STADIUM AND ALL CITY OF BOSTON CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS VALUED AT OR MORE THAN \$35 MILLION

WHEREAS: On February 2, 2022 President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., signed an executive order declaring that large-scale construction projects pose special challenges to efficient and timely procurement by the Federal Government. Construction employers typically do not have a permanent workforce, which makes it difficult to predict labor costs when bidding on contracts and to ensure a steady supply of labor on contracts being performed. Challenges also arise because construction projects typically involve multiple employers at a single location, and a labor dispute involving one employer can delay the entire project. A lack of coordination among various employers, or uncertainty about the terms and conditions of employment of various groups of workers, can create friction and disputes in the absence of an agreed-upon resolution mechanism. These problems threaten the efficient and timely completion of construction projects undertaken by Federal contractors. On large-scale projects, which are generally more complex and of longer duration, these problems tend to be more pronounced; *and*

WHEREAS: President Biden's executive order also declared that Project Labor Agreements (PLAs) are often effective in preventing these problems from developing because they provide structure and stability to large-scale construction projects. Such agreements avoid labor-related disruptions on projects by using dispute-resolution processes to resolve worksite disputes and by prohibiting work stoppages, including strikes and lockouts. They secure the commitment of all stakeholders on a construction site that the project will proceed efficiently without unnecessary interruptions. They also advance the interests of project owners, contractors, and subcontractors, including small businesses. For these reasons, owners and contractors in both the public and private sector routinely use project labor agreements, thereby reducing uncertainties in large-scale construction projects. The use of project labor agreements is fully consistent with the promotion of small business interests; *and*

WHEREAS: President Biden's executive order further declared that it is the policy of the Federal Government for agencies to use project labor agreements in connection with large-scale construction projects valued at \$35 million or more to promote economy and efficiency in Federal procurement; *and*

WHEREAS: On December 23, 2024, Governor Maura Healey signed an Executive Order to boost women and underrepresented groups in the construction industry. According to Mass.gov, women have historically made up an average of 11% of the construction industry. As the White Stadium development moves forward, it is critical that women

and people of color have equal opportunities in the construction industry, as well as having the opportunity to be a part of a union; *and*

WHEREAS: Supporting this initiative, Governor Healey signed an economic development bill, which identifies the significance of project labor agreements. A Project Labor Agreement (PLA) is a project-specific collective bargaining agreement on large scale development projects between unions and contractors. This signed document establishes employment terms and conditions for a construction project. PLAs are often set in place in private developments, however it is crucial that the agreements are more widely utilized in Boston and the Commonwealth; *and*

WHEREAS: PLAs can include hiring regulations that could require contractors to hire local workers, apprentices, and underrepresented groups. PLAs can help ensure that projects have a quality, highly trained, and diverse workforce. Additionally, these agreements can offer wage floors, ensuring that all workers are getting paid equally. PLAs often include important benefits, such as retirement cushions, as well as health and welfare contributions; *and*

WHEREAS: PLAs can include hiring goals and provisions to create opportunities for women and people of color, creating a workforce advantage over development sites that do not have PLA in place. Economic development opportunities should benefit the local community and those often shut out, especially in the case of the White Stadium project; *and*

WHEREAS: PLA can include a number of unique terms to help parties achieve their objectives, they can be used to ensure equal employment opportunities, create policies that uplift underserved workers, and redress historic and current inequities where the parties agree to do so; *and*

WHEREAS: These agreements also protect workers against wage theft and ensure workers are paid a decent wage. Wage theft occurs in the construction industry for several reasons, including falsified records, illegal deductions, and misclassification of workers. PLAs oftentimes have clauses to prevent these instances of wage theft from occurring; *and*

WHEREAS: Project Labor Agreements will ensure that workers will feel valued and respected in the workplace. It is critical that all Boston workers feel appreciated and are paid a fair wage while working on the White Stadium Project; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Boston City Council supports the use of Project Labor Agreements at White Stadium to ensure equal payment for workers with a wage floor and promote a diverse workforce.

Filed in Council: January 8th, 2025

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL

December 30, 2024

Councilor Louijuene
(Councilor Mejia)

ORDERED: That effective Tuesday, January 14, 2025 the following named person be, and hereby is, appointed to the position set against their name until Friday, April 11, 2025.

BiWeekly Payroll

John D. Moore	Secretary	\$1,150.00	part time
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BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL

December 20, 2024

Councilor Louijuene
(Councilor Fernandes Anderson)

ORDERED: That effective Thursday, December 19, 2024 the following named person be, and hereby is, appointed to the position set against their name until Friday, March 14, 2025.

BiWeekly Payroll

Tiffany Cogell	Secretary	\$2,961.54	full time
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BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
CITY COUNCIL

December 30, 2024

Councilor Louijuene
(Councilor Mejia)

ORDERED: That effective Saturday, January 11, 2025 the following named person be, and hereby is, appointed to the position set against their name until Friday, March 14, 2025.

BiWeekly Payroll

Kori-Reign Tyler	Secretary	\$840.00	part time
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Legislative Calendar for the January 8, 2025 Session

Sixty Day Orders

The following ordinances, appropriations and/or orders recommended by the Mayor for passage by the City Council become effective after the date specified unless previously acted upon¹

¹Section 17E of Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948 (as amended):

The mayor from time to time may make to the city council in the form of an ordinance or loan order filed with the city clerk such recommendations as he may deem to be for the welfare of the city. The City Council shall consider each ordinance or loan order so presented and shall either adopt or reject the same within sixty days after the date when it is filed as aforesaid. If such ordinance or loan order is not rejected within sixty days, it shall be in force as if adopted by the city council unless previously withdrawn by the mayor.

In effect February 2, 2025

Message and order for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to appropriate the amount of One Hundred Ten Million Dollars (\$110,000,000.00) for purposes of funding the Housing Accelerator Program. The expenditures related to the program are one-time in nature and are assumed to be non-recurring costs of the City, therefore, are appropriate to be funded with non-recurring revenue. (Docket #2024 -1765 / #2025-0108)

Assigned for Further Action

2 - Section 17F of Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948 (as amended):

The city council may at any time request from the mayor specific information on any municipal matter within its jurisdiction, and may request his presence to answer written questions relating thereto at a meeting to be held not earlier than one week from the date of the receipt of said questions, in which case the mayor shall personally, or through a head of a department or a member of a board, attend such meeting and publicly answer all such questions. The person so attending shall not be obliged to answer questions relating to any other matter.

*Home Rule Petitions Not Responded to by the Mayor*³

³Section 22 of Chapter 190 of the Acts of 1982:

Every order of the city council approving a petition to the general court pursuant to Clause (1) of Section 8 of Article 2 of the amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth shall be presented to the mayor who shall forthwith consider the same, and, within fifteen days of presentation, either approve it, or file with the city council a statement in detail of his reasons for not approving the same, including any objection based on form, on content, or both; provided, that no such order shall be deemed approved or in force unless the mayor affixes his signature thereto.

Matters in Committee

The following matters were previously filed with the City Council and have been referred to a committee. Matters in committee can be brought back before the City Council pursuant to City Council Rule 24. The following *definitions* describe different types of matters in committee:

- Ordinances:*** Local laws enacted by the Boston City Council and the Mayor that become part of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Loan Orders:*** Authorization for the City of Boston to incur debt and expend money for projects, purchases, or other obligations.
- Orders:*** Directives that authorize action. Orders are legally binding but are not part of the City Code of Ordinances.
- Home Rule Petitions:*** Requests for special acts that concern a particular municipality. Home Rule Petitions require approval of the Boston City Council and Mayor, as well as passage by the state legislature.
- Order for a Hearing:*** A formal request sponsored by a councilor that a committee of the Boston City Council conduct a hearing about a particular matter, issue, or policy that impacts the City of Boston. An Order for a Hearing is not a law and is not voted on by the City Council. The only action concerning an Order for a Hearing that can be taken at a City Council meeting is the administrative action of placing it on file.
- Legislative Resolution:*** A recommendation concerning policy issues that may urge action on particular matters. Legislative resolutions have no legal effect. Legislative resolutions represent a particular position or statement by a Councilor, Councilors, or the City Council as a whole.

2025 Matters in Committee

Committee	Docket #	Sponsor	Co-Sponsor(s)	Docket Description	Date referred Hearing(s)	Notes
Arts, Culture, Entertainment, Tourism, & Special Events	0104	Mayor		Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Hundred Five Thousand Six Hundred Dollars (\$305,600.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY25 Local Cultural Council Program, awarded by the Massachusetts Cultural Council to be administered by the Office of Arts and Culture. The grant will fund innovative arts, humanities, and interpretive sciences programming that enhances the quality of life in the City of Boston.	11/20/2024	2024-1679
Environmental Justice, Resiliency & Parks	0103	Mayor		Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Hundred Fifty-Six Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$456,500.00) in the form of a grant, for FY25 MVP Action Grant, awarded by the Executive Office of Energy & Environment Affairs to be administered by the Environment Department. The grant will fund the permit submittals for the project in FY26, with a goal of completing the MEPA permitting process and submitting permits to other applicable Local, State and Federal permitting agencies.	8/28/2024	2024-1282
Environmental Justice, Resiliency & Parks	0110	Mayor		Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$500,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC), awarded by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs to be administered by the Parks and Recreation Department. The grant will fund the prospect of cities and towns in acquiring and developing land for park and outdoor recreation purposes.	12/4/2024	2024-1767
Housing & Community Development	0102	Mayor		Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Twenty-Five Million Dollars (25,000,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Harvard Allston Brighton Fund grant, awarded by the Harvard Business School to be administered by the Mayor's Office of Housing. The grant will fund the creation of affordable homeownership, affordable rental housing in the Allston-Brighton neighborhoods.	3/27/2024	2024-0572

2025 Matters in Committee

Committee	Docket #	Sponsor	Co-Sponsor(s)	Docket Description	Date referred Hearing(s)	Notes
Post-Audit: Government Accountability, Transparency, & Accessibility	0105	Mayor		Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of William Harry Shipps, as a member of the Audit Committee, for a term expiring November 9, 2029.	11/20/2024	2024-1687
Post-Audit: Government Accountability, Transparency, & Accessibility	0106	Mayor		Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Samantha Riemer, as a member of the Audit Committee, for a term expiring November 9, 2029.	11/20/2024	2024-1688
Post-Audit: Government Accountability, Transparency, & Accessibility	0107	Mayor		Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Janet Peguero, as a member of the Audit Committee, for a term expiring October 27, 2029.	11/20/2024	2024-1689
Public Health, Homelessness, & Recovery	0100	Mayor		Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Sandro Galea, as a member of the Boston Public Health Commission's Board of Health for a term expiring on January 26, 2026.	2/7/2024	2024-0286
Public Health, Homelessness, & Recovery	0101	Mayor		Message and order for the confirmation of the appointment of Elsie Tavares, as a member of the Boston Public Health Commission's Board of Health for a term expiring on January 26, 2026.	2/7/2024	2024-0287
Strong, Women, Families, & Communities	0109	Mayor		Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Nazzaro Community Center Renovation grant, awarded by the United States Department of Treasury, passed through the MA Executive Office of Economic Development, to be administered by Property Management. The grant will fund repairs and capital improvements to maintain current functionality and programming at the Nazzaro Community Center.	12/4/2024	2024-1766
Strong, Women, Families, & Communities	0111	Mayor		Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Age Strong Universal Fund, awarded by the Donor Group to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund senior center programs and services for older adults in Boston.	12/4/2024	2024-1769

2025 Matters in Committee

Committee	Docket #	Sponsor	Co-Sponsor(s)	Docket Description	Date referred Hearing(s)	Notes
Ways & Means	0108	Mayor		Message and order for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to appropriate the amount of One Hundred Ten Million Dollars (\$110,000,000.00) for purposes of funding the Housing Accelerator Program. The expenditures related to the program are one-time in nature and are assumed to be non-recurring costs of the City, therefore, are appropriate to be funded with non-recurring revenue. Filed in the Office of the City Clerk on December 2, 2024.	12/4/2024	2024-1765

Official Resolution
of Councilor John Fitzgerald

***Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extends its Congratulations to:***

Louis D. Brown Peace Institute

In Recognition of:

**Thirty Years of Passionate Work with Families and
Communities to Promote Healing, Teaching and
Learning**

***and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends
its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly
signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a
copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.***

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

BOSTON DEBATE LEAGUE

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Your dedicated efforts to serve the students in Boston Public Schools, providing them with the opportunity to further develop their academic abilities through the art of debate. We highly commend your achievements in transforming the young minds of our community, increasing their chances of future academic and career success.

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION
OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

WANG YMCA OF CHINATOWN

IN RECOGNITION OF:

**Your hard work and efforts in organizing the Holiday Celebration and Christmas Party.
Thank you to your team for bringing together residents and members of the community
together to share and celebrate the festive joy ahead of the holiday season.**

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

波士頓市會議議員 - 愛德華、費連

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
EXTENDS ITS APPRECIATION TO:

NEW ENGLAND YUANJI DANCE ASSOCIATION
紐英崙元極舞協會

IN RECOGNITION OF:

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE
CHINATOWN COMMUNITY AND THE CITY OF BOSTON. WE COMMEND YOUR EFFORTS IN ENGAGING OUR
BELOVED SENIOR CITIZENS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, CELEBRATING THE ART OF DANCE;

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued
success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to
and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

波士頓市議會議員 - 愛德華、費連

BE IT RESOLVED, THAT THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
EXTENDS ITS APPRECIATION TO:

NEW ENGLAND KUNG FU DANCE ASSOCIATION
紐英崙養生舞協會

IN RECOGNITION OF:

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR MANY YEARS OF DEDICATION AND COMMITMENT TO THE
CHINATOWN COMMUNITY AND THE CITY OF BOSTON. WE COMMEND YOUR EFFORTS IN ENGAGING OUR
BELOVED SENIOR CITIZENS WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, CELEBRATING THE ART OF DANCE;

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success;
that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy
thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

MASSACHUSETTS SICKLE CELL ASSOCIATION

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Your pursuit to increase awareness of sickle cell disease (SCD) through activism and educating our community. We extol your efforts to empower the lives of those who suffer with SCD, providing programs and services to ensure the highest quality of life possible for them.

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

**OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN**

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

**The City of Boston's 4th Annual Army and Navy
Flag Football Game**

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Boston's Fourth Annual Army and Navy Football Game taking place December 14, 2024 on the Barry Field in Charlestown. The celebration of camaraderie, esprit de corps, patriotism and sportsmanship brings the community together to appreciate our country's beloved soldiers and sailors who have served in the Armed Forces. Thank you for your continued service to our nation and for protecting and defending our citizens home and abroad.

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

DR. ROBERT AND AMY WU

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Your 30th Anniversary Charity Concert and three decades worth of community service. We applaud your tireless dedication to support charitable organizations through this concert. Thank you for spreading love through the power of music and for your important contributions to the Chinatown community. Congratulations on thirty years of hard work!

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

SEAN JACOBSEN

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Your invaluable work with our office for Fall 2024. We thank you for your time and commitment to assist our team with the needed research, social media support and administrative tasks. You have demonstrated great initiative and interest in City government over the last four months and are always quick to learn. We commend your willingness to take on a wide array of tasks, your reliability, and your openness to learn and receive feedback. You have been a great help to our office and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

LAURA LIU

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Your invaluable work with our office for Fall 2024. We thank you for your time and commitment to assist our team with the needed research, social media support and administrative tasks. You have demonstrated great initiative and interest in City government over the last four months and are always quick to learn. We commend your willingness to take on a wide array of tasks, your reliability, and your openness to learn and receive feedback. You have been a great help to our office and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

VERONICA LEON

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Your invaluable work with our office for Fall 2024. We thank you for your time and commitment to assist our team with the needed research, social media support and administrative tasks. You have demonstrated great initiative and interest in City government over the last four months and are always quick to learn. We commend your willingness to take on a wide array of tasks, your reliability, and your openness to learn and receive feedback. You have been a great help to our office and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

**OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN**

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

JESSE BLANK

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Your invaluable work with our office for Summer/Fall 2024. We thank you for your time and commitment to assist our team with the needed research, social media support and administrative tasks. You have demonstrated great initiative and interest in City government over the last four months and are always quick to learn. We commend your willingness to take on a wide array of tasks, your reliability, and your openness to learn and receive feedback. You have been a great help to our office and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

NANCYBELLA RAGO

IN RECOGNITION OF:

Your invaluable work with our office for Fall 2024. We thank you for your time and commitment to assist our team with the needed research, social media support and administrative tasks. You have demonstrated great initiative and interest in City government over the last four months and are always quick to learn. We commend your willingness to take on a wide array of tasks, your reliability, and your openness to learn and receive feedback. You have been a great help to our office and we wish you all the best in your future endeavors!

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

**OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN**

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

Polish American Citizens Club

IN RECOGNITION OF:

**Your tireless contributions to making our city a brighter and more diverse place.
We recognize the important history, culture and pride of Polish Americans and we applaud
the Polish American community across the State of Massachusetts for your contributions to
our city and country.**

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued
success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested
to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
Extends its Recognition to:

WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA

IN RECOGNITION OF:

National Wreaths Across America Day 2024. Since 2007, Wreaths Across America has been dedicated to distributing wreaths for placement on graves in military cemeteries. In 2008, the US Senate acknowledged December 13th, 2008 to be the first Wreaths Across America day after Senator Susan Collins of Maine offered a Resolution in recognition of the efforts of Wreaths Across America. Thank you for your continuous efforts to remember the fallen, honor those who serve, and teach our youth the value of freedom. As we look ahead to 2025, may we all follow the theme of living with purpose.

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: Edward M. Flynn (Retired) U.S. NAVY

Date: December 5, 2024,

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



IN TRIBUTE

THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL EXTENDS ITS
 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR
 FAMILY IN THE PASSING OF YOUR LOVED ONE

Michael Doyle McNally

IN WHOSE MEMORY ALL MEMBERS STOOD
 IN TRIBUTE AND REVERENCE AS
 THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ITS MEETING OF

December 2, 2024

SINCERELY,

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Attest

Presented By

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



IN TRIBUTE

THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL EXTENDS ITS
 DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR
 FAMILY IN THE PASSING OF YOUR LOVED ONE

Sheila A. Lynch

IN WHOSE MEMORY ALL MEMBERS STOOD
 IN TRIBUTE AND REVERENCE AS
 THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ITS MEETING OF

December 4, 2024

SINCERELY,

 CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Attest

Presented By

Mass Black Alcohol & Addiction Council - Citation Names and Verbiage

1. **Greg Davis** - The Kattie Portis - Community Legacy Hero Award
2. **Jen Tracey** - The Frances L. Brisbane - Leadership in Community Enrichment Award
3. **Maryanne Frangules** - Lifetime Achievements Award
4. **Jackie Jenkins Scott** - Lifetime Achievements Award
5. **Torch Light Recovery Inc.** - Nathaniel Hakim Askia Founders Award

Unsung Shero & Hero Award

1. Haywood Fennell
2. Julia Ojeda
3. Barbara Santos-Silva
4. Richard Johnson
5. Herschelle Reaves
6. Brian Greene
7. Vernard Bruce Wade
8. Brother Robert Kinney
9. Fay White
10. Cherose Singleton
11. Nia Imani
12. Gilbert White
13. Frankie Hicks
14. Brother Paul Muhammad
15. Brother John Canty
16. Attorney Eva Clark
17. Florence Knight
18. Doug Lomax
19. Cherly Jones
20. Zakiya Alake
21. Julie Bunch
22. Queen Gloria Johnson
23. Tracy Litthcut
24. Shelina Maddrey

Agency Hero Supporter Award

1. Michael Botticelli
2. Karen Pressman
3. Deirdre Calvert
4. Solomon Baymon
5. Julie Burns
6. Dr. Edward Bernstein
7. David L. Avery
8. Catrina Cooley
9. Ludy Young
10. John Cromwell
11. Christian Arthur
12. Officer Edith
Alexandre
13. Brenda Marshall
14. Brent Stevenson

Verbiage for citation:

For your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Greg Davis

Upon your reception of The Kattie Portis Community Legacy Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and
Recognition of:

Jen Tracey

**Upon your reception of The Frances L. Brisbane - Leadership in Community Enrichment
Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your
years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and
families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.**

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude,
congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly
signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted
by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Maryanne Frangules

Upon your reception of the Lifetime Achievements Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Jackie Jenkins Scott

Upon your reception of the Lifetime Achievements Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Torch Light Recovery Inc.

Upon your reception of the Lifetime Achievements Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Haywood Fennell

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Julia Ojeda

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Barbara Santos-Silva

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Richard Johnson

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Herschelle Reaves

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Brian Greene

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Vernard Bruce Wade

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Brother Robert Kinney

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Fay White

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Cherose Singleton

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

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OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Nia Imani

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Gilbert White

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

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OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Frankie Hicks

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Brother Paul Muhammad

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Brother John Canty

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Eva Clark

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Florence Knight

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Doug Lomax

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Cherly Jones

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Zakiya Alake

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Julie Bunch

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Gloria Johnson

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Tracy Litthcut

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Shelina Maddrey

Upon your reception of the Unsung Shero & Hero Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Michael Botticelli

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Karen Pressman

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Deirdre Calvert

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Solomon Baymon

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Julie Burns

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Dr. Edward Bernstein

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

David L. Avery

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Catrina Cooley

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Ludy Young

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

John Cromwell

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Christian Arthur

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Officer Edith Alexandre

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Brenda Marshall

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

OFFICIAL RESOLUTION

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR

BRIAN WORRELL

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council Extends its Commendation and Recognition of:

Brent Stevenson

Upon your reception of the Agency Hero Supporter Award from the Massachusetts Black Alcohol and Addictions Institute, and for your years of advocacy, dedication, and service to bettering the lives of individuals and families of African ancestry suffering from substance use and co-occurring disorders.

And be it resolved that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its gratitude, congratulations, and best wishes for your continued success, that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of City of Boston.

City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution of City Councilor Enrique J. Pepén

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extends its Congratulations to:

Blue Mountain Jamaican Restaurant

In Recognition of:

**Your grand opening and for bringing more Jamaican favorites and
culture to Boston!**

We thank you for your commitment and passion for the community!

Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best
wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the
President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof
transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.



By: Ruthée Loujeune
President of the City Council

Attest: Alex Quintas
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: [Signature]

Date: December 19th 2024

City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution of City Councilor Enrique J. Pepén

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extends its Gratitude to:

Dr. Jean S Bonet, MD

In Recognition of:

**Your unwavering dedication and compassionate care, and your
commitment to improving the well being of families and communities.
We honor your exemplary service in family medicine.**

Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best
wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the
President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof
transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.



By: *Ruthzee Foujeune*
President of the City Council

Attest: *Alex S. Santos*
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: *[Signature]*

Date: _____

City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution of City Councilor Enrique J. Pepén


Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extends its Gratitude to:


Oenone Calixte

In Recognition of:

**Your extraordinary dedication and exceptional contributions to
advancing Mattapan Tech's Vision. Your leadership, commitment, and
unwavering support have been instrumental in our community.**

Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best
wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the
President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof
transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: 
President of the City Council

Attest: 
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: 

Date: _____



City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



**Official Resolution
of City Councilor Enrique J. Pepén**

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extends its Gratitude to:

Edna Etienne

In Recognition of:

**Your generous support of the Mattapan Tech Scholarship Program for
Black and Brown Youth. Your commitment to education and community
upliftment for the residents of Boston.**

Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best
wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the
President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof
transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.



By: *Ruthzee Loujeune*
President of the City Council

Attest: *Alex Guintas*
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: *[Signature]*

Date: _____

City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution of City Councilor Enrique J. Pepén

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extends its Gratitude to:

Irlande Plancher

In Recognition of:

**Your dedication and impactful leadership as a community organizer.
Your passion and commitment have strengthened and empowered our
community.**

Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.



By: *Ruthzee Loujeune*
President of the City Council

Attest: *Ally Fuentes*
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: *[Signature]*

Date: _____

City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution

Presented by

Council President Ruthzee Louiseune

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council extends its Congratulations to

Haitian-Americans United

In Recognition of:

26th Annual Independence Day Gala

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.



By: Ruthzee Louiseune
President of the City Council

Attest: Alex Goulet
Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: Ruthzee Louiseune

Date: January 4, 2024

City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution

Presented by

Council President Ruthzee Louijeune

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extends its Congratulations to

Rev. Dr. Othon Noel

In Recognition of:

Founding the Church of God Christian Life Center of Boston, your service as Senior Pastor, and your 50 years of dedication to doing the will of God through assisting and providing resources to the Haitian community both home and abroad

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____

President of the City Council

Attest: *Alex Grantas*

Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____



City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution

Presented by

Council President Ruthzee Louijeune

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council extends its Congratulations to

Frederick “Flips” Richard

In Recognition of:

Your outstanding achievement for making history as the youngest male American gymnast to win an individual all-around medal. Your achievement is an honor to the Haitian-American community, living up to the legacy of Toussaint Louverture that our roots are many and deep and they will shoot up again

and Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____

President of the City Council

Attest: *Alex Goulet* _____

Clerk of the City of Boston

Offered by: _____

Date: _____



City of Boston

IN

CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extended its Congratulations to:

ALEX HAMPTON

In Recognition of:

Your service to our community and our country ; and

Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its
best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly
signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and
a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: _____
President of the City Council

Attest: _____

Offered by: Gabriela Colette Zapata
Clerk of the City of Boston

Date: _____

City of Boston

IN CITY COUNCIL



IN TRIBUTE

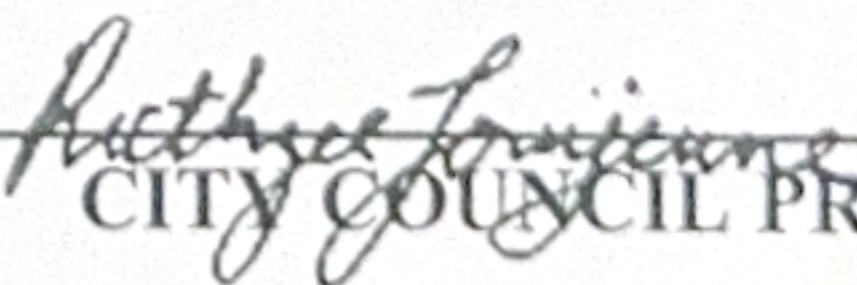
THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL EXTENDS ITS
DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY IN THE PASSING OF YOUR LOVED ONE

Alfonso DiPietro

IN WHOSE MEMORY ALL MEMBERS STOOD
IN TRIBUTE AND REVERENCE AS
THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ITS MEETING OF

December 20, 2024

SINCERELY,


CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Attest

Presented By



City of Boston IN CITY COUNCIL



Official Resolution

Be it Resolved, that the Boston City Council
extended its Congratulations to:

Maria Oliveira

In Recognition of:

Your outstanding achievement, dedication and perseverance in completing English
for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) program at Maverick Landing
Community Services _____ ; and

Be it further Resolved that the Boston City Council extends its
best wishes for continued success; that this Resolution be duly
signed by the President of the City Council and attested to and
a copy thereof transmitted by the Clerk of the City of Boston.

By: Ruthyee Loujeune
President of the City Council

Attest: _____

Clerk of the City of Boston
Offered by: Gabriela Colette Zapata

Date: _____

Maverick Landing Community Services

GRADUATION LIST

INTERMEDIATE LEVEL:

Alberto Silveira
Alvaro Osorio
Crisley Macedo
Maria Sequeira
Edmira Moreira
Erica Patino
Iolanda Tomar Da Cruz
Dora Taborda
Itajany Costa
Ivani Drumont Bragatto
Jean Pitest Saincyr
Joao N. Mendes
Jormy Miller Junior
Judelande Canton
Karem C. Queiroz Lourenco
Mady Monteiro
Maria Matilde De Andrade
Maria Oliveira
Silvia Moraes
Lorena Alves Miranda
Michele Pacheco

City of Boston

IN
CITY COUNCIL



IN TRIBUTE

THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL EXTENDS ITS
DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY IN THE PASSING OF YOUR LOVED ONE

David G. “Uncle David” Powers

IN WHOSE MEMORY ALL MEMBERS STOOD
IN TRIBUTE AND REVERENCE AS
THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ITS MEETING OF

December 4, 2024

SINCERELY,

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Attest

Presented By

City of Boston
IN
CITY COUNCIL



IN TRIBUTE

THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL EXTENDS ITS
DEEPEST SYMPATHY TO YOU AND YOUR
FAMILY IN THE PASSING OF YOUR LOVED ONE

Catherine F. Kyriakides

IN WHOSE MEMORY ALL MEMBERS STOOD
IN TRIBUTE AND REVERENCE AS
THE COUNCIL ADJOURNED ITS MEETING OF
January 8, 2025

SINCERELY,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ruthye Fournelle".

CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Attest

Presented By

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Ruthye Fournelle".