

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD M. FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION URGING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO RESUME IN-PERSON WORK FOR A MINIMUM OF FOUR DAYS PER WEEK

WHEREAS, When the COVID-19 pandemic began, many companies quickly shifted to remote work and work from home policies to keep employees safe and comply with federal, state, and local public health guidelines. As a result, millions of people started working from home and using communication technologies like Zoom to remain in contact and productive; *and*

WHEREAS, In September 2023, the Boston City Council Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology held a hearing to bring City of Boston meetings and boards back in-person with a hybrid option, including abutters meetings, the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA), Boston Licensing Board (BLB), and the Boston Planning and Development Agency Board (BPDA). Since that time, only the BPDA Board has resumed true hybrid meetings of both an in-person and virtual option, while the others remain only virtual. This continued practice has excluded many of our seniors and those lacking digital access; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2024, a joint study with Tufts University and the Boston Policy Institute indicated that falling commercial property values on account of continued remote work policies would potentially cost the City of Boston between \$1.7 billion - \$2.1 billion in annual tax revenue. While municipalities across the country also face this vexing issue, the City of Boston may potentially be most vulnerable as 70% of its revenue is derived from property taxes, and over 50% of the City's land is owned by nonprofits or nontaxable; *and*

WHEREAS, At this time, with Boston over \$100 million in debt after two straight years of double digit property tax increases, the City can no longer afford all sectors of our economy to work from home indefinitely and continue to contribute towards falling commercial property values; *and*

WHEREAS, In April, Fidelity announced that employees would be required to return to the office five days a week beginning in September. The public sector also has a responsibility to bring foot traffic back to the City and Downtown Boston to support our small businesses and local restaurants. Being in-person is a fundamental part of public service, helping to build strong relationships with constituents and better understand their needs. Boston needs to be a desirable place to do business and remain a key driver of our city, state, and regional economy; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the City of Boston to resume in-person work for a minimum 4 days per week.

Filed on: May 13, 2026