

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE DESIGNATING ECONOMICALLY DISENFRANCHISED AREAS OF DISTRICT 7 AS EMPOWERMENT ZONES TO SPUR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND IMPROVE QUALITY OF LIFE FOR RESIDENTS

WHEREAS, Neighborhoods throughout District 7, particularly Nubian Square and Grove Hall, have experienced decades of systemic underinvestment, resulting in disparities in income, health outcomes, business ownership, and access to economic opportunity when compared to citywide averages; *and*

WHEREAS, Median household income in parts of these neighborhoods is estimated to be well below the City of Boston median household income and residents continue to face heightened displacement pressures, rising costs, and the loss of small, locally owned businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, Federal Empowerment Zones established in the 1990s demonstrated the effectiveness of place-based, community-led economic development strategies that combine geographic designation, targeted investment, and accountability through measurable outcomes; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston has an opportunity to adapt the Empowerment Zone model to local conditions by coordinating City and State resources to align investments in housing, transportation, public safety, education, health, and economic opportunity within clearly defined geographic areas; *and*

WHEREAS, Multiple community-led and City-supported planning efforts already exist within District 7, yet these initiatives often operate independently and would benefit from a shared framework to coordinate investments, elevate small business priorities, and measure collective impact; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore the designation of Empowerment Zones in District 7, examine proposed geographic boundaries, convene relevant City agencies, community stakeholders, small businesses, and nonprofit partners, and assess how such a designation could align existing plans, target public investment, strengthen locally owned

businesses, improve quality of life for residents, and establish clear accountability and reporting mechanisms.

Filed on: January 28, 2026