

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, SHARON DURKAN, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA AND WEBER



## 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