

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JULIA MEJIA, ENRIQUE PEPÉN, MURPHY,
DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, SANTANA,
WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



**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