



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS OVERHEAD ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE AND UTILITY SAFETY

WHEREAS, On July 29, 2025, near Bartlett Street in Charlestown, overhead electrical wires caught fire and dropped sparks, igniting a couple of parked vehicles. Dozens of nearby residents lost power; *and*

WHEREAS, Eversource crews were able to restore service, attributed the incident to an "equipment issue," and acknowledged that elevated heat may have contributed. Officials say they cannot yet confirm if heat alone triggered the fire; *and*

WHEREAS, Charlestown residents and all Bostonians must have assurances that they are safe from utility hazards in their own neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, City of Boston officials and utility companies must do their due diligence to examine the cause of the fire and safety risks associated with overhead electrical wires in residential neighborhoods. It is also crucial that we hear from affected residents regarding impacts, communication, and emergency response; *and*

WHEREAS, There must also be a thorough review of all utility companies maintenance protocols, inspection schedules, emergency response contingency plans, and an evaluation of long-term infrastructure solutions to protect residents especially in high-density residential areas like Charlestown; *and*

WHEREAS, This is an opportunity to discuss areas in Boston where underground electrical equipment is active and to assess opportunities for this type of investment including understanding the costs associated and expected timeline to bring all electrical equipment underground; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss overhead electrical equipment maintenance and how to keep our communities safe from utility hazards, and that City of Boston officials, utility companies, and the public be invited to testify.