



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Hearing Order to Address Growing Concerns Over the White Stadium Project Costs, Community Input, and Transparency

WHEREAS, The White Stadium project in Franklin Park is a public asset intended to serve the Boston community, and recent developments regarding its cost and governance have raised significant concerns among residents; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Michelle Wu has acknowledged that the costs of the White Stadium project have doubled, with taxpayers expected to shoulder half of the burden, raising serious questions about fiscal responsibility and prioritization; and

WHEREAS, The current 30-year agreement associated with this project effectively places a public asset under private control, potentially limiting public access and displacing Boston Public School sports teams that rely on the stadium.; and

WHEREAS, Opponents of the project have expressed significant concerns about the city's willingness to commit taxpayer funds without clear limits, creating uncertainty about the final cost and accountability; and

WHEREAS, The process leading to the approval of the White Stadium project has been criticized for its lack of transparency and rushed decision-making, leaving many Boston residents and stakeholders feeling excluded from meaningful participation; and

WHEREAS, Boston has demonstrated the ability to identify funding for other significant public projects, such as the recent \$35 million investment in the Clougherty Pool, indicating that alternative funding approaches should be explored for White Stadium to avoid costly private partnerships; and

WHEREAS, Residents from neighborhoods across Boston have continued to raise concerns about the potential long-term financial burden and the displacement of community sports and events due to the privatization of White Stadium; and

WHEREAS, There is an urgent need for clarity and accountability regarding the total projected costs of this project and its implications for Boston taxpayers and public access;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, That the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to examine the growing concerns surrounding the escalating costs of the White Stadium project, the impact on Boston Public Schools and community sports teams, and the long-term implications of the 30-year agreement with private interests; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That the hearing will seek to:

1. Provide a full accounting of the projected and actual costs of the White Stadium project to date, including the sources of funding and anticipated future expenses borne by taxpayers.
2. Examine the process by which the 30-year agreement was negotiated, including opportunities for public input and transparency measures.
3. Explore alternative solutions for funding and maintaining White Stadium as a public asset without ceding control to private entities.
4. Evaluate the impact of the project on Boston Public School sports teams and other community groups currently utilizing White Stadium.
5. Solicit feedback and recommendations from residents, community leaders, and stakeholders on how to ensure equitable access and sustainable use of White Stadium.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That representatives from the Mayor's Office, Boston Public Schools, the Parks and Recreation Department, relevant private partners, and community organizations be invited to provide testimony at the hearing; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That the Boston City Council is committed to ensuring fiscal accountability, transparency, and the preservation of public spaces for the benefit of all Boston residents.

Filed on the 8th day of January, 2025