

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A WHITE STADIUM OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

WHEREAS, The redevelopment of White Stadium, located inside Franklin Park, represents one of the most important public land decisions facing Boston today. Franklin Park is the city's largest green space and a cornerstone of daily life for residents across Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, Roslindale, and beyond. The park supports our seniors, working families, Boston Public Schools (BPS) students, youth sports groups, tourists, and countless community programs throughout the year; *and*

WHEREAS, Since the beginning of the redevelopment process, residents have continued to express their concerns with the accelerated community process. With the lease between the City of Boston and Boston Unity Soccer Partners in December 2024 and construction already underway, there have been growing concerns from residents that there would be less community input; *and*

WHEREAS, Under the present structure, the Mayor serves as the chief oversight official. While this reflects strong leadership and accountability, the Mayor's obligations span the entire city, encompassing every department, initiative, crisis, and constituency. Given the complexity and scale of the White Stadium project, there is a critical need to expand oversight capacity, bring in specialized expertise, and ensure that residents and key stakeholders have a formal, independent, and ongoing voice; *and*

WHEREAS, The creation of the proposed White Stadium Oversight Committee is designed to be a partnership between the Mayor, in their capacity as chief oversight official, and the community. It enhances transparency, strengthens public trust, and ensures the project succeeds for the City, for BPS students, and for the surrounding neighborhoods; **NOW, THEREFORE**

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:

Section 1.

The City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter 7, Section 4 is hereby amended by inserting the following after Section 4.2A:

Be it ordained by the Boston City Council, as follows

7-4.2B White Stadium Oversight Committee

SECTION 1. Establishment.

The White Stadium Oversight Committee (“the Committee”) is hereby established to provide long-term oversight, monitoring, accountability, and community engagement for the White Stadium redevelopment and operation.

SECTION 2. Purpose.

The Committee shall be established to ensure that residents have a legally constituted, independent body that is empowered to:

1. Receive complaints.
2. Request documentation.
3. Review agreements, studies, and plans.
4. Hold public hearings.
5. Coordinate across city and state agencies.
6. Provide structured, ongoing input to the Mayor and City Council.

SECTION 3. Responsibilities.

The Committee shall be responsible for:

1. Advancing transparent communication among city and state agencies, partners, and residents.
2. Monitoring project decisions, operations, and community impacts.
3. Review all stadium-related plans, schedules, agreements, and operations.
4. reviewing essential studies on environmental impact, parking, mobility, and economic opportunity.
5. Monitoring and advocating for BPS student athletics and community use.
6. Monitoring procurement integrity and compliance with respect to equity and transparency.
7. Receiving public concerns and recommending corrective actions.
8. Publishing quarterly updates and comprehensive annual oversight reports.
9. Providing recommendations to the Mayor and City Council.

SECTION 4. Membership.

The Committee shall consist of 30 members including:

1. Representatives from the 3 City Council districts bordering Franklin Park.
2. Representatives from Boston Public Schools and Boston Public Schools Athletics.
3. Franklin Park advocacy organizations.
4. Neighborhood associations from Roxbury, Dorchester, Jamaica Plain, Mattapan, and Roslindale.

5. Environmental and environmental justice organizations.
6. Public health, climate resilience, and air quality experts.
7. Transportation, mobility, and accessibility experts.
8. Small business, economic development, and entrepreneurship organizations.
9. Tourism and visitor economy organizations, including Meet Boston.
10. Youth and senior advocates.
11. Arts, culture, recreation, and community activation groups.
12. Public procurement experts.

SECTION 5. Powers and Duties.

The Committee shall have the authority to:

1. Request relevant and necessary documentation from city and state agencies or partners to carry out the Committee's responsibilities described herein.
2. Convene public hearings and solicit expert testimony.

SECTION 6. Independence.

The Committee shall operate under the supervision of the Parks and Recreation Department; however, no department, agency, or partner may interfere with its investigations or reports.

SECTION 7. Staffing.

The Committee may retain independent experts as needed. The City shall provide budgetary support sufficient to cover the necessary expenses related to the Committee's operations.

SECTION 8. Duration.

The Committee shall remain active through construction and for 20 years after the stadium opens, unless extended.

SECTION 9. Severability

The provisions of this ordinance are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage.

Filed on: January 28, 2026