

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, SHARON DURKAN,
COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERLD, MEJIA, MURPHY, SANTANA,
WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS EXPANDING THE URBAN TREE CANOPY IN DISTRICT 2

- WHEREAS:** Having a healthy urban tree canopy is important to our environment and quality of life, as trees not only beautify our landscapes, but they also provide filters for pollutants, absorb excess stormwater runoff, provide shades during hot summers, and other environmental and public health benefits; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** Residents across the city treasure the trees in their neighborhoods, and view the trees as an integral part of their community, and residents of District 2 have often advocate for more tree plantings in their neighborhoods, especially as it encompasses neighborhoods with low tree coverage, such as Chinatown, Downtown, and South Boston; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** The City released its Urban Forest Plan in September of 2022, which lays out strategies for the preservation, cultivation, and expansion of our urban canopy, and the City Council passed the tree protection ordinance late 2023, which regulates the process of tree removals, trimming, and maintenance; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** Aside from preservation of trees, we also need to expand our tree coverage to ensure that every neighborhood has a healthy tree canopy. The Urban Forest Plan finds that neighborhoods in the south and west parts of the city have more trees, while neighborhoods in the north and east parts of the City, such as South Boston, have the least tree coverage. As of 2019, South Boston only had 8% tree coverage, and a census tract in Chinatown only had 7%, while the city average was 27%; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** In thinking of expanding tree canopies in our neighborhoods, we need to identify areas that would be suitable for new tree plants, select appropriate tree species that would survive in our environment, and ensure that the City has sufficient staffing levels to plant and maintain our trees; *and*,
- WHEREAS:** The expansion of our tree canopies, especially in neighborhoods that have low tree coverage, should be a priority for our continued efforts to combat climate change, and community input about the removal of trees is also an issue of climate justice; *and*,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss ways to expand our urban tree canopies in District 2 and City of Boston. Representatives from the Parks Department, environmental justice organizations, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in City Council: January 15, 2025