

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA AND ERIN MURPHY,
BREADON, FLYNN, ARROYO, FLAHERTY, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA AND
WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSSING INCREASING EMERGENCY SERVICES IN TANDEM WITH POPULATION GROWTH

WHEREAS, In January 2023, Mayor Wu shared a vision for Boston to sustainably reach its peak population of 800,000 residents with the housing, schools, parks, and public transit to support that growth; *and*

WHEREAS, The current population of the City of Boston is more than 650,000, which would mean growing in population by 150,000 new residents; *and*

WHEREAS, Yet, there has been less focus on a plan to ensure there are adequate city services and infrastructure to absorb this growth responsibly. It is incumbent upon the City to review and analyze how this anticipated growth will impact our ability to provide basic city services such as public safety responses under fire, police, and emergency services.; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is the City of Boston's municipal ambulance service, caring for patients with clinical proficiency, professionalism and compassion. Member's of Boston EMS answered the call for over 134,000 medical emergencies in 2022, serving residents across every neighborhood of the city. Our EMS responders also served admirably as frontline workers during the pandemic and deserve adequate support from the City; *and*

WHEREAS, On Friday, May 19th, a Charlestown elderly woman was in need of assistance following a medical emergency. While Boston Fire services arrived around 15 minutes after an emergency call was made, Boston EMS arrived about an hour after they were dispatched. The delay resulted in delay of care; *and*

WHEREAS, The resident later found out EMS transport was coming from a different neighborhood because Charlestown's ambulance was occupied with a different call. This incident highlights the necessity in assessing city service needs in tandem with investments in city growth; *and*

WHEREAS, Effective growth requires a holistic approach in how the city will invest in more resources to successfully support its growing number of citizens, particularly in instances of distress. We must ensure that we have the appropriate ratio EMS cars, equipment, and personnel to provide residents with appropriate, life-saving response times; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA AND ERIN MURPHY

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss increasing services in tandem with population growth and that the Boston Planning and Development Agency, Emergency Medical Services, and other relevant departments be invited to testify.

Filed on: June 7th, 2023