



City of Boston, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor  
**MICHELLE WU**

June 10, 2024

## **TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Dear Councilors,

Pursuant to Section 48 of the Boston City Charter, as amended, I am procedurally disapproving the City Council’s amended version of Docket 0670, “Message and Order for Annual Appropriation and Tax Order for FY2025” and return Docket 0670 with further amendments to your Honorable Body. Thank you for the Council’s stewardship of this process and continued partnership in responsibly managing the City’s finances.

In April, we proposed a Fiscal Year 2025 budget to build on our steady progress to make Boston a home for everyone—where our communities’ needs are met and dreams can grow. This budget reflects the shared priorities of the Administration and Council in strengthening core City services for public safety and constituent services and investing in operational and service improvements that support affordability, resiliency and equity throughout our neighborhoods. We are grateful for the Council’s year-round advocacy and leadership in communicating the vision and values that helped shape our initial budget proposal.

Since April the City Council has conducted a robust and thorough review process with over 30 public hearings and working sessions, closely scrutinizing the budget and various departments’ plans for the year ahead, to help ensure the effective and efficient delivery of services. As always, these hearings also served as an opportunity to listen and learn from members of our communities to propose new ideas for the City to consider.

Our returned budget maintains a diligent focus on fiscal responsibility and reflects the productive analysis and advocacy through the Council’s recent process. The City’s economic strength was affirmed last month in a credit opinion issued by Moody’s Ratings which maintained our AAA bond rating and cited our “strong regional economy,” “stable property tax revenue,” and “strong fiscal management.” Since introducing the budget in April, continued strength in locally generated excise revenue—particularly in our strong hospitality sector — allows us to assume an additional \$850,000 (or 0.02%) in revenue for the FY25 budget.

Our returned budget also includes acceptance of \$1.1 million in reductions proposed by the Council. We restore funding to ensure effective operations in core city services and public safety, including where new funding is needed for the Boston Police Department to operationalize contract reforms in modernizing paid details, upgrading technology, and other planned improvements. Boston is now the safest major city in the country, and we must continue that progress through continued coordination and strong infrastructure for community safety and excellent city services for youth, families, and seniors. Our record-low levels of violence are tied

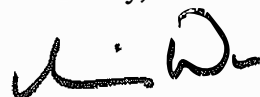
to well-resourced public safety efforts, beautiful parks and public spaces, and comprehensive programming to serve every generation of our community. We therefore disapprove of deeper cuts to departments while accepting some more modest reductions that reflect a pattern of vacancies in staffing as we work to improve hiring processes and fill these needed roles. We disapprove proposed cuts to the Execution of Courts line item used to fund legal judgments and settlements because these expenses, like public safety overtime, are legally required expenses that historically have required this level of funding at minimum.

These revenue and spending adjustments allow for our returned budget to accept approximately \$2 million of proposed spending amendments. We recognize the Council's dedicated focus on housing and youth jobs by partially accepting amendments related to these important priorities. The \$500,000 of funds for housing can support investments in down payment assistance, community land trusts, and legal representation for families. We also include a requested increase in Council office salaries, which Councilors noted as a priority. We accepted funding for inspectional services, trash containerization, constituent services technology, parks and green spaces, infant and maternal health programs, landmarks personnel, and supports for small businesses, particularly in emerging sectors like accessory dwelling unit development. We're committed to continuing to work together on workforce development and college readiness through potential external funding sources. We anticipate returning to the Council in the coming months to propose allocating the remaining ARPA funding for housing and other priorities.

Over the past few years the City has worked diligently to settle labor contracts and invest in increasing salary levels for our lowest paid workers. In collaboration with the Council we have deployed new employee hiring and retention efforts across the City to attract and train new employees. We believe that with these investments and the valued collaboration with our labor partners, we will be able to fill important staffing vacancies and continue to provide the high quality of City services that makes Boston an attractive destination for residents and businesses alike.

Our team looks forward to the continued partnership of the City Council in this operating budget process including the final approval of the Boston Public Schools appropriation and the FY25-FY29 Capital Plan. Thank you for all that you do to represent our communities across the City.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Wu', written in a cursive style.

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston

# **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

## **Appropriation and Tax Order for the fiscal year Commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025**

### **ORDERED:**

I. That to meet the current expenses of the City of Boston, in the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, the respective sums of money specified in the schedules hereinafter set out, be, and the same hereby are, appropriated for expenditure under the direction of the respective boards and officers severally specified, for the several specific purposes hereinafter designated and, except for transfers lawfully made, for such purposes only said appropriations, to the extent they are for the maintenance and operation of parking meters, and the regulation of parking and other activities incident thereto (which is hereby determined to be \$30,000,000), being made out of the income from parking meters and, to the extent they are for other purposes, being made out of the proceeds from the sale of tax title possessions and receipts from tax title redemptions in addition to the total real and personal property taxes of prior years collected from July 1, 2022 up to and including March 31, 2023, as certified by the City Auditor under Section 23 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws, and out of available funds on hand, (which is hereby determined to be \$40,000,000) as certified by the Director of Accounts under said Section 23, and the balance of said appropriations to be raised by taxation pursuant to Section 23 of Chapter 59 of the General Laws:

CITY DEPARTMENTS	Personnel Services	Contractual Services	Supplies & Materials	Current Charges & Obligations	Equipment	Special Appropriation	Structures & Improvements	Land Non-Structural Improvement	Total Return
<b>Mayor's Office</b>									
111 Mayor's Office	6,102,102	522,650	75,500	32,000	113,218	-	-	-	6,845,470
121,128 Election Department	4,185,910	831,179	1,165,735	165,200	88,703	-	-	-	6,436,727
150 Intergovernmental Relations	982,069	161,161	6,200	161,976	-	-	-	-	1,311,406
151 Law Department	8,767,811	2,198,101	18,650	164,500	-	-	-	-	11,149,062
<b>Equity &amp; Inclusion</b>									
402 Office of Equity	2,211,130	1,043,378	29,500	5,322	1,249	-	-	-	3,290,579
409 Office of Language & Communications Access	1,160,873	926,162	13,143	12,375	56,945	-	-	-	2,169,498
401 Human Right Commission	368,379	87,300	8,000	1,200	-	-	-	-	464,879
113 Office for Immigrant Advancement	1,289,609	2,073,217	11,400	15,324	-	-	-	-	3,389,550
417 Women's Advancement	516,152	225,973	610	190	-	-	-	-	742,925
419 Black Male Advancement	968,899	851,550	10,500	2,800	9,500	-	-	-	1,843,249
403 Fair Housing & Equity	338,703	118,297	5,000	5,000	-	-	-	-	467,000
422 LGBTQ+ Advancement	536,203	223,250	16,000	2,750	4,000	-	-	-	782,203
404 Commission For Persons W/Disabilities	814,683	63,860	7,380	7,500	-	-	-	-	893,403
<b>OPAT</b>									
410 Office of Police Accountability & Transparency	1,274,661	84,775	8,500	107,840	5,500	-	-	-	1,481,276
<b>Operations</b>									
180 Property Management	11,799,500	14,274,432	436,848	1,478,378	432,057	-	-	-	28,421,215
181 Public Facilities Department	10,039,337	486,879	21,521	13,713	5,800	-	-	-	10,567,250
260 Inspectional Services Dept	22,283,176	1,242,742	268,795	176,863	80,735	-	-	-	24,052,311
<b>Community Engagement</b>									
412 Neighborhood Services	5,209,450	241,554	12,693	26,180	39,970	-	-	-	5,529,847
<b>Arts &amp; Culture</b>									
414 Office of Arts & Culture	2,259,825	2,199,487	15,000	47,400	-	-	-	-	4,521,712
<b>Economic Opportunity &amp; Inclusion</b>									
182 Office of Economic Opportunity & Inclusion	2,739,800	4,254,409	43,800	83,714	8,489	-	-	-	7,130,212
114 Consumer Affairs & Licensing	1,956,020	23,114	14,500	5,773	9,420	-	-	-	2,008,827
156 Supplier Diversity	1,733,703	591,926	6,110	-	4,800	-	-	-	2,336,539
416 Office of Tourism	1,144,613	297,710	18,368	60,054	44,489	314,200	-	-	1,879,434
<b>Worker Empowerment</b>									
157 Labor Compliance and Worker Protections	1,404,897	543,740	5,820	-	3,200	-	-	-	1,957,657
183 Office of Workforce Development	3,602,535	3,273,008	-	-	-	-	-	-	6,875,543
448 Youth Employment and Opportunity	8,077,735	14,143,079	95,000	44,496	-	-	-	-	22,360,310
<b>Environment, Energy &amp; Open Space</b>									
303 Environment Department	3,785,367	1,338,317	16,300	10,500	-	-	-	-	5,150,484
300,400 Parks & Recreation Department	18,482,694	8,225,154	1,283,327	331,113	2,497,973	90,000	-	3,568,349	34,478,610
421 Office of Historic Preservation	1,477,383	51,800	28,800	6,000	-	-	-	-	1,563,983
420 Office of Food Justice	562,387	818,550	11,500	3,600	-	-	-	-	1,396,037
<b>Finance</b>									
144 Office of Finance	1,144,929	464,965	1,250	2,400	-	-	-	-	1,613,544
136 Assessing Department	7,166,682	810,286	123,700	207,000	-	-	-	-	8,307,668
131 Auditing Department	3,516,915	313,726	11,528	44,104	-	-	-	-	3,886,273
141 Budget Management	2,822,406	741,750	6,350	201,975	-	-	-	-	3,772,481
418 Office of Participatory Budgeting	372,323	348,246	-	10,000	1,000	1,400,754	-	-	2,132,323
333 Execution of Courts	-	-	-	-	-	5,000,000	-	-	5,000,000
374 Pensions & Annuities	4,005,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4,005,000
143 Procurement	3,066,851	270,838	15,725	205,200	-	6,000	-	-	3,564,614
137,138 Treasury Department	4,056,737	887,153	875,703	20,123	20,000	-	-	-	5,859,716



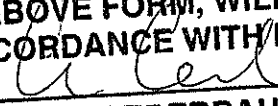
**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**FURTHER ORDERED:**

II. That to meet so much of the expenses of maintaining, improving and embellishing in the fiscal period commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, cemeteries owned by the City of Boston, or in its charge, as is not met by the income of deposits for perpetual care on hand December 31, 2023, the respective sum of money specified in the subjoined schedule be, and the same hereby is, appropriated out of the fund set up under Chapter 13 of the Acts of 1961 the same to be expended under the direction of the Commissioner of Parks and Recreation:

400100

Cemetery Division  
Parks and Recreation Department  
\$950,000

**I HEREBY CERTIFY  
THE FORGOING, IF PASSED IN  
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**  
BY   
**ADAM CEDERBAUM  
CORPORATION COUNSEL**