



Boston City Council

Erin J. Murphy

Councilor At-Large

COMMUNICATION RE: PUBLIC ACCESS TO CITY COUNCIL WORKING SESSIONS AND HEARINGS

I wish to place on the record my concerns regarding public access to City Council working sessions and hearings, particularly when meetings are held outside the Iannella Chamber.

At a recent Council meeting, there was extensive discussion about ensuring that public access to meetings is meaningful. That concern was reflected in the working session on Docket #0157 (Rules), where a Zoom link was available only by request and the meeting was neither live streamed nor recorded. As a result, many residents were unable to observe the discussion in real time or after the fact, underscoring the need for a clearer and more consistent approach to public access.

As the Council moves forward with additional working sessions, particularly the upcoming Ways and Means working session and hearing on Boston's FY'27 operating budget, Docket #0201, scheduled for February 12 at 10:00 a.m., it is essential that full public access be provided. If the Piedmont Room cannot accommodate live streaming and recording, the meeting should be held in the Iannella Chamber or another space that allows for full broadcast access.

The operating budget is among the most significant responsibilities of the City Council. The public must be able to view these discussions live and access recordings afterward without unnecessary procedural barriers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Erin J. Murphy".

Erin J. Murphy

Boston City Councilor At-Large

Chair of Human Services