



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS CREATION OF AN OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE ON COMPLIANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS: As Elected Officials, Boston City Councilors are placed in positions of public trust and should demonstrate the highest level of ethical standards and integrity, while adhering to strong moral principles and following basic rules and ethics; *and*

WHEREAS: Boston City Councilors and staff are currently required to complete mandatory Conflict of Interest training annually by the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. However, due to a series of legal and ethical lapses by members at the Boston City Council over the last several years, which has undermined public trust in the work of the City Council, there is a need for the creation of an oversight committee that will foster compliance and accountability on the Council body to restore public faith in city government; *and*

WHEREAS: This oversight board can include a number of functions, including ensuring that the Council body is compliant to all relevant rules and regulations, reviewing conflict of interest matters, identifying and investigating any alleged violations, impropriety, fraud, abuse of power, and proposing reforms to prevent future offenses; *and*

WHEREAS: The formation of the Board may potentially be comprised of members including the Boston City Council President, a retired Massachusetts or federal judge, a representative from the Boston Municipal Research Bureau, and Boston residents that would ensure the Boston City Council is compliant on all rules and ethics matters; *and*

WHEREAS: The people of Boston deserve accountability, transparency, and ethics reform to restore credibility in the body and their municipal government. With the public having lost faith in the Boston City Council, action is required immediately; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss creating an Oversight Committee on Accountability and Compliance for the Boston City Council. Representatives from the Law Department, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: April 16, 2025