

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON,
DURKAN, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER,
AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS A STATEWIDE RIGHT TO REPAIR TO PROTECT CONSUMERS AND FOSTER A CULTURE OF REPAIR IN BOSTON AND BEYOND

- WHEREAS,** The citizens of Boston are increasingly dependent on software-driven devices like smartphones, laptops, and tablets; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Small repair businesses are essential to the economy of Boston, providing services directly to neighbors, supporting a healthy, sustainable economy, and allowing a wide variety of important electronics to stay in working order; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Citizens of Boston want the great products that large manufacturers make and sell in Boston to keep working, but those same manufacturers no longer give people the parts, tools, repair software, technical manuals or firmware access needed to fix those products; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Right to Repair movement aims to empower consumers by granting them access to repair information, tools, and parts necessary to fix their electronic devices, promoting consumer choice and reducing electronic waste; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Small and independent repair businesses play a vital role in local economies, providing valuable services to consumers, supporting job creation, and fostering economic resilience; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Large manufacturers often restrict access to repair information, tools, and parts, creating barriers that prevent consumers and independent repair shops from effectively repairing electronic devices, thereby limiting consumer choice and driving up repair costs; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Promoting a culture of repair not only reduces electronic waste but also conserves natural resources, mitigates environmental pollution, and contributes to the sustainability of our communities and planet; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A statewide Right to Repair legislation would ensure that consumers have the right to choose where and how their electronic devices are repaired, fostering competition, innovation, and fair market practices in the repair industry; *and*

WHEREAS, Purchasers of goods should decide how and where the goods they own are fixed, and local businesses should be empowered to carry about those repairs; *and*

WHEREAS, MASSPIRG Education Fund's report "Repair Saves Families Big" found that if we repaired our devices instead of replacing them, the average American family would save \$330 each year. Across the state, Massachusetts families would save \$874 million annually; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss reasons to support the statewide protection and restoration of the “right to repair,” currently pending in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Legislature as S2478/H360.

Filed on: March 27, 2024