

OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND
TWENTY-SIX**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AUDIT THE IMPLEMENTATION AND
EFFECTIVENESS OF THE 2014 BOSTON TRUST ACT**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is committed to ensuring that all legislation, policies, and programs operate in a manner that upholds government accountability, transparency, and accessibility; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Trust Act, passed unanimously by the City Council and signed into law on August 20, 2014, was established to limit the City's role in federal civil immigration enforcement and ensure that City budget and resources are not used in said manner; *and*

WHEREAS, It has now been 10 years since the passage of the Boston Trust Act, presenting an opportunity to review compliance with legislative intent in light of the realities of 2025, particularly as undocumented residents face heightened concerns and uncertainty in the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Given the evolving legal, social, and political landscape, it is critical to review the current status of the Trust Act to ensure that it remains a strong, effective, and enforceable protection for all residents; *and*

WHEREAS, The past 10 years of the implementation and enforcement of the Trust Act must be audited to determine whether it is operating efficiently and effectively in accordance with its legislative intent, ensuring that the ordinance continues to meet the needs of immigrant communities and remains consistent with municipal regulatory frameworks; *and*

WHEREAS, A thorough review of the Trust Act's application requires an examination of data collection, reporting mechanisms, and departmental compliance, as well as an evaluation of whether City resources—including personnel and funding—are being used appropriately within the scope of municipal authority and not diverted toward federal civil immigration enforcement; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has a duty to ensure that its law enforcement and administrative agencies comply with established policies, maintain internal controls, and adhere to best practices while ensuring risk management procedures are in place to prevent unintended legal and financial liabilities to verify that public funds and assets are managed responsibly and effectively; *and*

WHEREAS, Evaluating the administration of the Trust Act includes reviewing whether current operational procedures align with the stated goals of the legislation, assessing whether enforcement mechanisms require adjustment, and determining whether additional programmatic or legislative changes may be necessary to improve efficiency, effectiveness, and accessibility based on this review and analysis; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to audit the implementation, enforcement, administrative compliance, and impact of the 2014 Boston Trust Act. This review will assess whether the ordinance has been executed in alignment with its legislative purpose, examine compliance by relevant departments, and evaluate the efficiency and effectiveness of related City operations and programs.

Filed in Council: January 28, 2026