

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, ED FLYNN, AND RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE ARROYO, BAKER, BOK, BREADON, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LARA, MEJIA AND MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO BRING THE 2026 NBA ALL-STAR WEEKEND TO BOSTON

WHEREAS, Basketball was invented in Massachusetts in 1891; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston professional sports teams have won 12 championship titles since 1999—more than any other city; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston has not hosted a professional All-Star Game since the Boston Red Sox hosted the 1999 MLB All-Star Game and has not hosted the NBA All-Star Game since 1964; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Celtics have won 17 Championships since their founding—10 of which were won after the last Boston-hosted All-Star Game; *and*

WHEREAS, The NBA and Boston Celtics will celebrate their 80th season in 2026; *and*

WHEREAS, 2026 will be the 70th anniversary of the drafting of civil rights and Celtics champion Bill Russell; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Celtics have consistently pursued racial equity, being the first team to draft a Black player with Chuck Cooper in 1950 and the first team to have an all-Black starting lineup in 1964; *and*

WHEREAS, the Greater Cleveland Sports Commission analysis indicates that the 2022 NBA All-Star Game attracted \$141.4 million in direct spending, generated \$248.9 million in total economic impact, produced \$50 million in earned media value, and received \$11.9 billion in total media reach; *and*

WHEREAS, The 2022 NBA All-Star Game attracted 121,600 people from 45 states and 24 countries; *and*

WHEREAS, This attention would provide the City of Boston an opportunity to highlight its many diverse neighborhoods and local businesses by hosting extended festivities and celebrations throughout the City; *and*

WHEREAS, Hosting the All-Star Game will require equitable contracting and procurement practices to ensure MWBE participation; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Celtics are preparing a bid to host the 2026 NBA All-Star Weekend; *and*

WHEREAS, NBA Commissioner Adam Silver stated that he would “encourage” Boston’s application; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address improvements needed to bolster the City’s application standing and ensure preparations are done in an equitable manner and that representatives from the Boston Celtics; Public Works; Small Business Development; Tourism, Sports, & Entertainment; Transportation; and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 27, 2023