

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW AND
ESTABLISH A “BUSINESS OWNER 101”
PROGRAM FOR GRANT RECIPIENTS**

WHEREAS: The City of Boston provides grants to help support new businesses throughout the City; *and*

WHEREAS: While Boston has a robust ecosystem of programs to support new business owners, including organizations such as the Black Economic Council of Massachusetts (BECMA), Amplify Latinx, Boston Impact Initiative, the Initiative for a Competitive Inner City (ICIC), and MassChallenge, many entrepreneurs remain unaware of these resources or face challenges navigating them effectively; *and*

WHEREAS: New entrepreneurs may lack access to coordinated education, mentorship, and technical assistance that are critical to their success, including guidance on theft prevention strategies and navigating complex licensing and permitting requirements, leading to avoidable errors that could jeopardize their businesses; *and*

WHEREAS: There is an opportunity to build stronger coordination between the City and existing technical assistance providers to ensure entrepreneurs are efficiently connected to the right resources at the right time; *and*

WHEREAS: Homebuyers who receive City assistance are required to complete a “Homebuyer 101” course, which equips them with necessary tools to understand their investment, mitigate risks, and plan for success; *and*

WHEREAS: A similar “Business Owner 101” program is planned as an educational support system to provide essential information, particularly for grant recipients, on foundational topics such as financial planning, permitting, compliance, and business operations; *and*

WHEREAS: Further discussion is needed to explore how a “Business Owner 101” program will operate, including provisions of language accessibility, and proper marketing; *and*

WHEREAS: Collaboration with key partners in Boston’s entrepreneurial ecosystem can ensure this program leverages existing expertise, fills gaps where necessary, and effectively empowers new business owners; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review and discuss the new “Business Owner 101” program, with an emphasis on aligning with existing programs and partners. Representatives from the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, as well as key stakeholders such as BECMA, Amplify Latinx, Boston Impact Initiative, ICIC, MassChallenge, and other interested parties, shall be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: January 26, 2026