

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER & JOHN FITZGERALD



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PRIOR OPERATING BUDGET AMENDMENTS FROM FY23 TO FY25

WHEREAS, In November 2021, residents of the City of Boston approved a ballot question amending the City Charter, giving the Council stronger authority to review, amend, and override mayoral budget proposals, particularly concerning the overall budget and specific line items; *and*

WHEREAS, Prior to the City Charter amendment the City Council had the authority to adopt or reject a budget, or reduce specific items in a budget. Among other things, the 2021 City Charter amendment provided the City Council with the authority to amend the budget by reallocating funds among existing or new line items. The total amount of the City Council's amended version of the budget, however, cannot exceed the total amount of the budget proposed by the Mayor. The Mayor may accept or reject the City Council's version of the budget, or amend any line item in the City Council's version of the budget. The City Council can override the Mayor's veto or amendments by a two-thirds vote; *and*

WHEREAS, Since the City Charter amendment, the City Council has exercised its authority to amend the Mayor's budget. In June 2024, the City Council ultimately passed \$8.2 million in budget amendments designed to promote housing affordability, youth jobs, public safety, and English-language learning, among other things. On June 9, 2025, the Mayor signed the FY26 operating budget and accepted all of the Council's amendments, totalling over \$9 million worth of investments in areas such as housing, public safety, youth jobs, pest control, and other quality of life issues; *and*

WHEREAS, To ensure the integrity of the budget process, the Council has a fiscal responsibility to examine whether City funds have been allocated in the manner they intended in prior operating budgets approved by the Council; *and*

WHEREAS, An examination of the efficacy of prior budget amendments will allow the Council and the Mayor to ensure that past amendments have been used as designated and can inform how the Council plan future amendments so as to have the best chance of accomplishing their goals; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold hearings and public testimony sessions regarding the status of FY23, FY24, and FY25 budget amendments and that representatives of City of Boston and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 28, 2026