

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS FLYNN, COLETTA ZAPATA, BREADON, DURKAN,
FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING PREVENTION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS RELATED TO DRINK SPIKING IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Drink spiking occurs when a person deliberately puts alcohol or drugs into someone else's drink without their knowledge or permission. These drugs can include Rohypnol ("roofies"), GHB, or Ketamine. Instances of drink spiking can occur at bars, pubs, nightclubs, or event private house parties; *and*

WHEREAS, Physical symptoms of spiking can include confusion, nausea and vomiting, loss of effective communication, memory loss, and temporary paralysis. If someone suspects they or someone else have been spiked, it is critical to tell the establishment's manager or party host and seek medical attention as soon as possible. Someone who has been spiked should never be left alone or continue drinking; *and*

WHEREAS, According to reports, in 2023 there were 107 reported instances of drink spiking in the City of Boston and 71 reported instances in 2024. While there has been a decrease in reported incidents, many feel intimidated to report spiking to the Boston Police Department. It's critical that we encourage survivors of spiking to immediately report to the police; *and*

WHEREAS, Currently residing in the Assembly Committee, New York State Bill A8613 "*An Act to amend the alcoholic beverage control law, in relation to requiring certain licenses to provide drink drug testing devices to protect consumers from drink spiking*" would require bars and restaurants to make "drink drug testing devices" available to patrons upon request, while also requiring prominent notice that the devices are available. These devices can detect the most common controlled substances used for spiking within minutes; *and*

WHEREAS, Drink spiking can be linked to violent crimes, including sexual assault. It is critical that the City expands its available resources not only for licensed establishments, but also for patrons, especially our young women, to prevent drink spiking. It is also important that the City expands its public awareness campaign to educate residents on the signs and dangers of drink spiking; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council strongly supports the expansion of expanding prevention and public awareness campaigns related to drink spiking in the City of Boston.

Filed on: December 3, 2025