

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN, HENRY SANTANA, LIZ BREADON,
COLETTA ZAPATA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN,
WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ASSESS THE EFFICACY OF THE CITY OF BOSTON MUNICIPAL CODE'S UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTABILITY ORDINANCE

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston Code on University Accountability (10-10) was enacted to enhance the City of Boston's ability to more effectively provide requisite public services by requiring post-secondary institutions to collect and report comprehensive data on their locally residing off-campus student populations; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The ordinance aims to improve public safety, regulatory enforcement, and the quality of life in neighborhoods impacted by significant off-campus student populations; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The ordinance mandates that schools domiciled in Boston maintain a directory of student information, monitor compliance with zoning regulations, and report detailed statistics to the City annually by October 1; *and*
- WHEREAS,** District 8, home to numerous post-secondary institutions, experiences a unique and concentrated impact from off-campus student housing, necessitating a thorough review of the ordinance's effectiveness in addressing quality-of-life concerns, housing stability, and neighborhood cohesion; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Concerns remain regarding the adequacy of institutional compliance, the utility of reported data in addressing community concerns, and the sufficiency of enforcement mechanisms to ensure adherence to the ordinance; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Many Boston neighborhoods, including Fenway, Mission Hill, Audubon Circle, the West End, and Beacon Hill, experience a high density of off-campus students, affecting housing affordability, tenant protections, and local infrastructure demands; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In light of Boston's ongoing housing crisis, it is crucial to assess whether the ordinance is contributing to informed policymaking regarding student housing trends, short-term rental impacts, and potential displacement of long-term residents; *and*

WHEREAS, Strengthening partnerships between the City of Boston, higher education institutions, neighborhood associations, and advocacy groups will be essential to refining strategies that foster a balance between supporting students and protecting residential communities; *and*

WHEREAS, Measuring the efficacy of the ordinance is vital to ensure that the needs of Boston's residents and student populations are balanced and effectively addressed; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to evaluate the efficacy of City of Boston Code 10-10, University Accountability, with testimony invited from City of Boston representatives, academic institutions, housing advocates, neighborhood representatives, and other relevant stakeholders.

Filed on: February 7, 2025