



Boston City Council

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Councilor At-Large

Communication Regarding the Selective Blocking of Late-Filed Matters

There have been 52 late-filed matters before the Boston City Council this year alone.

Forty-three moved forward.

Nine were blocked.

Every single one of the blocked matters was mine, and every single one was blocked by Councilor Durkan starting on April 1.

And this is not normal. In 2025, close to 150 late-filed matters were filed, and there were zero objections. Not one was blocked.

Late files have been part of Council business forever, not just this year, not just under this Council President, and not just under this administration. The Mayor files them. Councilors file them. Central Staff files them for personnel matters. This is not new, unusual, hidden, or improper. It is part of the Council's order of business.

The reason this process exists is simple: Council business does not stop at the Monday 10 a.m. filing deadline. Things happen between the filing deadline and the Wednesday Council meeting. Time-sensitive matters come up. Information changes. Urgent issues need to be addressed. Late files are the proper way to bring those matters before the body so the Council can do its work publicly and on the record.

Councilor Durkan knows how this works because she has used these same Council procedures herself. Her own late-filed matters have moved forward without objection, and when she filed an emergency GLP-1/Ozempic-related resolution in 2025, it passed unanimously.

If you go back and watch prior Council meetings, or read the minutes, you will see the same process over and over again. After the regular filed matters are handled, and before the Council moves to the Consent Agenda, the Chair checks with the Clerk and asks, "Are there any late files?" The Clerk gives the number of late-filed matters. The Chair then states that, in the absence of objection, those late files will be added to the agenda. If no objection is heard, the matters are properly before the body, the Clerk reads them into the record, and the Council handles them publicly by voting on them, referring them to committee, or placing them on file.

That is the normal process. That is the public process. That is the safeguard.

Since April 1, Councilor Durkan has been playing games with my filings and trying to stop me from doing the work I was elected to do. She has blocked my late-filed matters, including BPS oversight, a city audit, overdue accountability requests, and an emergency hearing order to identify replacement funding for firefighter cancer screenings.

These were not random matters. They were timely, urgent, and directly connected to the work before us, especially with the budget vote only weeks away.

And let's be clear: she is not objecting to late files as a principle. She is objecting to my late files.

On April 15, she made that obvious. She objected to eight late files, then moved to divide the question so six personnel matters could pass while the remaining two were blocked. That tells you everything. She is picking and choosing which late files get through and which ones get stopped.

So spare me the lecture about Open Meeting Law and protecting the integrity of the body.

If this were really about transparency, she would let the Clerk read the matter into the record so the public could hear what was being blocked. She could still object. She could still vote no. She could still move to refer it to committee. She could still explain her concerns publicly.

But objecting before the public even hears the item is not transparency. It keeps the public from knowing what is being blocked.

This is not about rules. This is not about transparency. This is not about the integrity of the body.

This is selective obstruction, and it is making it harder for the Council to do its job.