



City of Boston, Massachusetts  
Office of the Mayor  
**MICHELLE WU**

May 26, 2023

**TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

Dear Councilors,

I return herewith disapproved the amended Docket #0627 “Ordinance to Make the Boston City Council’s Web-Page on the Boston City Website More Resourceful and Accessible” passed by your Honorable Body on May 10th, 2023. I am vetoing this ordinance for the reasons set forth in this letter.

An ordinance is not the appropriate mechanism for accomplishing the outcomes the City Council is seeking. Under Section 17G of the City Charter, the City Council cannot issue directives to executive departments. The administration of the departments is under the exclusive authority of the Mayor. The City Council can choose what content to include on its own webpage through its own internal actions under the jurisdiction of Council Central Staff and the Council President’s office, which would not require Mayoral approval.

I support making the proposed types of information available on the Council’s website and appreciate the Boston City Council’s continued leadership to make City business transparent, accessible and useful to Boston residents. The Department of Innovation & Technology is available to offer technical assistance to support the efforts of the Council staff who are responsible for maintaining the content of the Council’s webpage.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu  
Mayor of Boston

All information uploaded to the City Council's web-page regarding shall be logged and categorized for future use.

Filed on: March 22, 2023

*In City Council* MAY 10 2023  
*Passed*  
*Alex Giontas* City Clerk  
*Approved*  
*Dis-Approved 5/24/23 Mayor*

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDINANCE TO MAKE THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL'S WEB-PAGE ON THE BOSTON CITY WEBSITE MORE RESOURCEFUL AND ACCESSIBLE

**WHEREAS,** The City Council's current page on the Boston City website only lists basic information on each City Councilor and does not easily connect each councilor to the policies they bring up or vote on in the chamber, nor does it easily allow constituents to find all the committees each councilor serves on; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Including more information on the City Council's web-page will help encourage civic engagement, show ways the council is working for its constituents, create a resource for the future, and build openness and transparency within the government; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Openness and transparency are pillars of trust in government, and due to its history of corruption, it is the duty of the City of Boston to build trust with the citizens of Boston; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Encouraging civic engagement is proven to benefit communities, increase voter participation, while benefiting the overall mental wellbeing of those who engage; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is home to some of the world's brightest minds in technology and web design, and the website for their elected officials should reflect that; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council should be more open and inclusive of the constituents it represents by allowing them to access useful information on policy and voting decisions by their elected representatives: ***NOW, THEREFORE***

***Be it ordained by the City of Boston, as follows:***

That the City of Boston Municipal Code, Ordinances be amended by adding in **Chapter II, Section 2-16:**

## **Section 2-16 Purpose.**

To ensure that the City Council's web-page on the City of Boston's website is easily accessible, transparent, contains pertinent information and resources, encourages civic engagement, and reflects the legislative processes of the elected officials on the City Council.

### **Section 2-16.1 Organization and Regulation.**

The City of Boston's City Council web-page may be updated weekly with the up-to-date information listed below.

The City of Boston's City Council web-page may include, but not be limited to:

1. A list of the City Councilors and their Boston email addresses and phone numbers;
2. Each City Councilor's Staff, their role, and their Boston email addresses;
3. Each City Councilor's filings in the council organized by type of filing, as well as their current status;
4. Each City Councilor's votes in Council meetings will be logged in evote, organized by item voted on, and published in the Councilors' city's webpage and to be displayed in aggregate for all city councilors for each vote on a "voting tracking page perhaps by topic and date range;
5. Each City Councilor's Committee/s assignments, a link to it's scheduled hearings, working sessions, and public testimony hearings;
6. Each City Councilor's relevant projects, provided by the Councilor;
7. Each City Councilor's relevant programs, provided by the Councilor;
8. Monthly Calendar of all events hosted by, or within the City Council, and a Monthly Calendar of all City of Boston and BPDA affiliated events hosted by, or within the City Council;
9. Each City Councilor's represented district and neighborhood;
10. A list of all Civic Associations and Neighborhood groups for each District with a link view its catchment area;
11. All Mayor's Community Liaison for each council district;
12. Each council district's capital update;
13. All amendments, and budget deliverables per City Councilor;
14. Any other relevant or pertinent updates from City Councilors;
15. A link to 311 to report Constituent Service issues, for example, a feed that displays a sortable or queryable table of all 311 requests from the district; and
16. A link to BPDA to populate all District developments' status and schedules and all Planned public works/ construction in the district.

The City Council's web-page shall be easy to navigate and accessible in conformance with the Section 508 Web Accessibility Standards developed by the United States Access Board (Section 508).