

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN, GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE THE INCLUSION OF POLLINATOR CORRIDORS AS PART OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is committed to species conservation and ecological restoration through practicing sustainable development and action to combat the climate crisis; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Pollinator and bird populations are declining at alarming rates, with 40% of bees and butterflies at risk of extinction, threatening ecosystems and food security worldwide. While this decline is primarily driven by habitat loss, research shows that even small, fragmented habitats can significantly increase biodiversity; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Pollinator corridors, pesticide-free pathways planted with native species, support pollinating insects and birds by providing essential nutrition and habitat. These corridors not only promote species conservation, but also improve climate resilience, public well-being, water quality, and overall ecosystem health; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Legislature has established a special commission to investigate opportunities to support pollinator health and is considering a program to cultivate native plants on state highways. Municipalities such as Somerville and Cambridge have enacted legislation incentivizing biodiversity and native planting; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Local institutions and community partners in Boston have taken the initiative to create and maintain pollinator habitats, including Fitzgerald Park in Mission Hill, the Northeastern University Arboretum, and the Rose Fitzgerald Kennedy Greenway; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston has an opportunity to lead by incorporating pollinator health and biodiversity into its planning and development processes, including tools like Institutional Master Plans, by encouraging native planting, reducing pesticide use, and expanding pollinator-friendly corridors; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council convene a hearing to explore strategies to support pollinator health as a part of responsible, sustainable planning and development, including potential incentives for native planting and biodiversity-friendly practices.

Filed on: February 9, 2026