



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO-THOUSAND AND TWENTY-THREE

ORDER OF COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY

ORDERED: That under the provisions of section 17F of Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as amended, and any other applicable provision of law, Her Honor, the Mayor, be, and hereby is, requested to obtain and deliver to the City Council, within one week of the receipt hereof, the following information:

Since October 12, 2022 I have been advocating that the special education bus drop off and ramp into English High School be repaired so the students in wheelchairs have an equitable and ADA compliant entrance. On September 27, 2023 I filed a 17F to collect information on why the work has still not begun. I have not received that information so I am filing a second 17F requesting the same information.

- I am requesting all email, phone calls and text message correspondence between all city departments and employees relating to this matter.
- I am requesting all dates and minutes from meetings that happened between all city departments and employees relating to this matter.
- I am requesting any drawings or plans that were created for the bus stop on McBride Street.

Filed in Council: October 30, 2023

First filing on September 27, 2023

ORDERED: That under the provisions of section 17F of Chapter 452 of the Acts of 1948, as amended, and any other applicable provision of law, Her Honor, the Mayor, be, and hereby is, requested to obtain and deliver to the City Council, within one week of the receipt hereof, the following information:

On October 12, 2022 I attended Civic Engagement Day, hosted by the Commission for Persons with Disabilities, and listened to the over one hundred Boston Public School special education students who came to the Council Chamber to ask questions of their elected officials. A student from English High spoke up, with the support of his assistive technology, and told us that he wanted our help moving the wheelchair bus drop off location, that is at the trash and delivery door of his school. He informed us that the dumpster is in the way and it is hard for the teachers to navigate around the barrels and the poles to push him, and other students, in their wheelchairs.

I began conversations with various City Departments immediately following that meeting last October. The Commission of Persons with Disabilities, Superintendent Skipper's team, BPS Facilities, and Boston Transportation Department were all informed of the concern I brought forward and I was told they were working on a solution. I asked to be part of those conversations but was told on several occasions I would not be allowed to attend.

In February I reached out once again to get an update on the progress. I was informed that the Disabilities Commission proposed a sketch for accessibility improvements to the McBride St. entrance and they would be building a compliant ramp. After several attempts to check on the progress of the work I requested a visit to English High, which was met with reluctance. On May 23rd I finally visited the school and was promised that the work would be completed during the summer and the students would have a new equitable and compliant entrance for their wheelchairs for the new school year this September.

On August 23, 2023 I sent an email to the Superintendent, her team and IGR letting them know that I drove by the school on August 20th, hoping to see the new ramp but saw that no work was done. I did not get any response from anyone I sent that email to. I attached the email below for reference.

I texted BPS last Wednesday and was told that they checked with Clare Kelly a few weeks on the status and she would be following up with me. I never received a text, call or conversation from Clare Kelly.

- I am requesting all email, phone calls and text message correspondence between all city departments and employees relating to this matter.
- I am requesting all dates and minutes from meetings that happened between all city departments and employees relating to this matter.
- I am requesting drawings or plans that were created for the bus stop on McBride Street.

Email I sent to...

Clare Kelly <clare.kelly@boston.gov>, cmurphy3@bostonpublicschools.org,
Brian Forde <bforde2@bostonpublicschools.org>, Neil Doherty <neil.doherty@boston.gov>,
Tiffany Chu <tiffany.chu@boston.gov>, Mary Skipper <mskipper@bostonpublicschools.org>,
Megan Costello <mcostello4@bostonpublicschools.org>
date:Aug 23, 2023, 2:31 PMsubject:Re: English Highmailed-by:boston.gov

Hello Everyone,

As you all know, I have been advocating for the entrance and wheelchair ramp at English High School since last October. I visited the school on May 23rd with Megan and Principal Murphy and we were told that all the meetings with different departments were complete and the work would be done this summer, in time for the new school year. This seemed very reasonable, seeing as though it is not that big of a job. I drove by the other day and was upset to see that no work was done yet. Please let me know what happened and if we can still expect the needed changes to be complete in time for the first day of school.

Thank you,

Erin



Filed in Council: September 27, 2023