

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

### RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF CORRECTIONAL STAFF INVOLVED IN THE DECEMBER 2025 IN-CUSTODY DEATH OF SHACOBY KENNY AT THE SUFFOLK COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION

**WHEREAS**, The death of individuals in custody raises serious concerns regarding public safety, accountability, and the protection of civil rights within correctional facilities; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Over the past five years, there have been over 20 reported deaths in custody across Suffolk County correctional facilities, including several at the Suffolk County House of Correction, where the most recent death followed an altercation with correctional officers, raising questions about the circumstances surrounding the incident and the conduct of those involved; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The in-custody death of Shacoby Kenny, which occurred in December 2025 following an altercation with correctional officers, has raised significant questions regarding the use of force, staff conduct, and the adequacy of emergency response and medical care provided to individuals in custody; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Individuals in custody who may have witnessed or have knowledge of the incident are in a uniquely vulnerable position, as they remain under the authority and supervision of correctional staff and may reasonably fear retaliation, intimidation, or adverse treatment; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The safety and protection of in-custody witnesses is essential not only to ensuring their personal well-being, but also to guaranteeing that they are able to come forward and provide information freely and without fear; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Fear of retaliation may deter witnesses from cooperating, thereby undermining both witness safety and the pursuit of accountability; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Temporary suspension of personnel involved in the incident is a necessary and appropriate measure to protect in-custody witnesses from retaliation, ensure their safety, and maintain public confidence in the fairness of the process; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Collective bargaining agreements governing correctional staff do not preclude the use of administrative suspension during an active investigation, particularly where necessary to protect the safety of individuals in custody and prevent retaliation;  
*and*

**WHEREAS,** A transparent, impartial, and accountable response is necessary to uphold the rights and safety of individuals in custody and to restore public trust; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council calls upon the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department to immediately place on administrative leave, for the duration of the investigation, any correctional staff directly involved in the December 2025 in-custody death of Shacoby Kenny at the Suffolk County House of Correction, in order to protect in-custody witnesses from retaliation or intimidation, ensure their safety and ability to come forward without fear, and uphold accountability and public confidence in the response to this incident.

Filed on: April 29, 2026