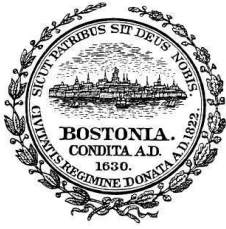


OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, DURKAN,  
FITZGERALD AND MURPHY



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF OUR LOCAL RESTAURANTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

**WHEREAS:** At the upcoming elections this November, voters will be voting on five binding statewide ballot questions on the state election ballot, one of which is Question 5, a ballot question to raise the minimum wage of servers and other tipped workers in Massachusetts; *and*

**WHEREAS:** If passed, the proposal would raise the minimum wage for thousands of tipped employees over a period of five years from \$6.75 an hour to the \$15 base pay by 2029. It would also allow tip pools, in which tips would be shared with non-service employees, who are usually paid a flat hourly rate above \$15; *and*

**WHEREAS:** According to a survey conducted by Carnegie Mellon University, 90% of the service workers that were polled are against the wage raise, citing that business will decline, and that customers will likely tip less for their service. 88% also oppose a mandatory tip pool where tips are shared with the kitchen and other non-service staff; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Research by the Political Economy Research Institute and Labor Center at UMass Amherst reported that Massachusetts restaurants will also have to increase the prices on their menus by about 2% to make up the difference in staff pay. This could have a negative impact on restaurant operations that could lead to staff layoffs and even cause restaurants to shut down; *and*

**WHEREAS:** In 2022, voters approved a ballot measure to eliminate the tip credit in Washington D.C.. This has resulted in restaurants laying off workers and operating on leaner staff. The Bureau of Labor Statistics reported that 3,200 jobs were cut, which is more than 10% of the peak workforce, and restaurants had to raise prices on their menus; *and*

**WHEREAS:** In Boston, many reports have noted local restaurant operators and service workers remain opposed to this ballot initiative led by groups from outside of Massachusetts; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Over the last few years, the restaurant industry was greatly impacted with many lost during the pandemic. In addition, food and labor costs have gone up with inflation. While many restaurants have recovered, and new ones have opened or are in the process of opening, the passage of this ballot question could once again put unnecessary pressure for restaurants to lay off staff and potentially threaten their survival. The current tipping system works, and 91% of servers say they prefer the current system; *and*

#### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the Boston City Council stands in support of our restaurant operators, many of which are small businesses in our local communities that contribute towards our neighborhoods and are part of the backbone of our city's economy.

**Filed in Council:** October 23, 2024