



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO AUDIT AND REVIEW THE CITY COUNCIL BUDGET AMENDMENT PROCESS

- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council is now in its fifth year of carrying out its budget amendment process; *and*
- WHEREAS,** With this relatively new responsibility, the City Council has a duty to reflect upon the lessons learned thus far to ensure that it is carrying out this responsibility as effectively as possible; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A consistent, transparent, and well-defined process is necessary to ensure that budget amendments are evaluated fairly and aligned with citywide priorities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** There is a need to examine how amendments are proposed, reviewed, prioritized, and communicated to ensure clarity for both Councilors and the public; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The accessibility of the process, including opportunities for community input and understanding, is essential to building public trust and equitable participation; *and*
- WHEREAS,** An assessment of implementation is necessary to determine whether approved amendments are funded, executed, and tracked in a timely and accountable manner; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Reviewing outcomes can help identify gaps between intended allocations and actual expenditures, as well as opportunities to strengthen oversight; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Council's post-audit and oversight responsibilities require an examination of the process to ensure government accountability, transparency, and accessibility that have significant budgetary and government trust implications and impacts;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to audit and review allocations and expenditures from previous fiscal years' budget amendments approved by the council. That representatives including the City Auditor, the Chief Financial Officer, Boston Public Schools, and other relevant financial officers provide detailed reporting, and that additional stakeholders be invited to share information on how these funds were distributed and the success of these amendments in accomplishing the council's budget priorities.