

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION ACKNOWLEDGING OPEN MEETING LAW VIOLATIONS

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law is a state law which is enforced by the Massachusetts Attorney General's office. This law governs how a municipal body meets and conducts business to support transparency and accountability. The Massachusetts Open Meeting Law states that no more than three Councilors can deliberate on a matter related to the business of the Council; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston residents have expressed concerns that there was a lack of transparency and backroom deliberations among city councilors, which skirted the spirit of the Open Meeting Law, leading up to the first Council meeting to determine who would be elected as President of the Boston City Council; *and*

WHEREAS, According to credible reports, over the weekend prior, city councilors met at the home of another city councilor to lobby them to run for President. Additionally, on the morning of the City Council election and at the outset of the Council meeting, city councilors were seen in public view deliberating at their council offices and outside the Iannella Chamber, a clear violation of the Open Meeting Law rule; *and*

WHEREAS, At the time of the vote, councilors publicly admitted to deliberations taking place throughout the process and the previous two months - but especially in the 24-48 hours prior to the vote. A series of incidents like this, has now paved the way for cynicism and the erosion of public trust between city elected officials and the residents of Boston that we serve. It is critical that the Boston City Council acknowledges years of ongoing public concerns on potential Open Meeting Law violations - and actively work to regain public trust and confidence through state training and recommendations on how to conduct this important process without breaking the law, and to conduct itself as a more open and transparent body; *and*

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the Boston City Council acknowledges violating the Massachusetts Open Meeting Law relating to the 2026 election of the Boston City Council President. As part of this acknowledgment, we respectfully ask the city clerk to forward a certified copy of this resolution directly to the Massachusetts Attorney General's Office of Open Government for further guidance.

Filed on: January 10, 2026