

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JULIA MEJIA, FERNANDES ANDERSON,
FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, LOUIJEUNE AND WORRELL



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND
TWENTY-FIVE**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE ACCOUNTABILITY,
TRANSPARENCY, AND ACCESSIBILITY IN ADMINISTRATIVE
PROCEDURES FOR COMPLYING WITH BOSTON LANDMARKS
COMMISSION RECOMMENDATIONS**

- WHEREAS,** The Boston Landmarks Commission (BLC) was established by Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975 to protect Boston's historic and architectural resources through the identification, conservation, and enhancement of areas, sites, structures, and fixtures of cultural significance; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Commission's legislative mandate includes the designation of landmarks, landmark districts, and architectural conservation districts, as well as the enforcement of Article 85 of the Boston Zoning Code, Demolition Delay, which is intended to establish a 90-day waiting period during which the City, the applicant, and other interested parties have the opportunity to explore demolition alternatives to minimize building demolitions; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City administration is responsible for processing and responding to BLC recommendations, including permitting decisions, demolition delay processes, and landmark designations, in accordance with legal and regulatory requirements; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Recent communications from the Commission have raised concerns about administrative practices that may not align with the legislative intent of Chapter 772 of the Acts of 1975, including delays, deviations from established processes, and potential noncompliance with procedures for receiving and responding to recommendations from the Commission; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The effective operation of City agencies and programs depends on adherence to legislative frameworks, as well as the transparency, accountability, and consistency of administrative procedures; *and*

WHEREAS, Evaluating the efficiency and effectiveness of City programs, including administrative compliance with legislative intent and regulations, is necessary to ensure that public resources, including Boston's historic assets, are responsibly managed and that City government operates transparently; *and*

WHEREAS, An audit of the administration's procedures for implementing or responding to BLC recommendations is necessary to identify potential inefficiencies, lapses in compliance, and opportunities for improving interdepartmental coordination; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the City administration's handling of recommendations from the Boston Landmarks Commission, with a focus on compliance with legislative mandates, transparency in decision-making, and operational efficiency. Representatives from the City administration, the Boston Landmarks Commission, and relevant stakeholders shall be invited to participate in the hearing and provide testimony.

Filed in Council: January 29, 2025