



**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, FITZGERALD AND MURPHY**

## **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

### **ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ESTABLISH AN ETHICS COMMITTEE AT THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS:** Elected officials, including Boston City Councilors, who have been placed in positions of public trust, should demonstrate the highest standards of positive leadership; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The role of a City Councilor includes and is not limited to representing and serving as advocates for residents, initiating, passing and amending legislation, approving the budget, and serving as a check to the executive branch. In addition, a City Councilor, while serving in a position of public trust, should demonstrate adherence to basic rules and ethics; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The Boston City Council does not currently have an Ethics Committee, although Councilors and staff are currently required to attend a mandatory training annually provided by the Massachusetts State Ethics Commission. There is precedent with Ethics Committees at the Massachusetts State House and the United States Congress both in the House and Senate. At the municipal level, the New York City Council has a Committee on Standards and Ethics; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Establishing an Ethics Committee will provide more oversight and transparency on potential violations on the Boston City Council. The residents of Boston deserve the highest standards of leadership from the Boston City Council; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss establishing an Ethics Committee to conduct additional ethics training for the members and staff of the City Council, review conflict of interest matters, and investigate any alleged violations for relevant action.

**Filed in Council:** December 6, 2024