

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, JOHN FITZGERALD, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE "RECOVER BOSTON" PROPOSAL

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston, like many other urban areas, is experiencing a significant rise in homelessness, substance abuse disorders, and open-air drug markets, all of which are contributing to a public health and safety crisis, particularly in the Newmarket area and surrounding neighborhoods; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The closure of the Long Island Shelter in 2014, and the prolonged timeline for the redevelopment of Shattuck Hospital campus, have left a significant gap in available long-term treatment and recovery services; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This crisis has had a detrimental effect on the quality of life for residents and visitors, with crime, violence, human trafficking, and public drug use, diminishing public safety, and further affecting approximately 1,300 elementary and middle school students in the affected neighborhoods, with more to be impacted as new schools open in the area; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The current system is failing to provide a cohesive, comprehensive approach to addressing the interconnected issues of homelessness, substance abuse, mental health, and recovery, leading to a cycle of repeated relapses and continued hardship for individuals; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The "Recover Boston" proposal provides a much-needed solution by creating a recovery campus with multi-phased zones that will address the needs of individuals at various stages of recovery, while also addressing homelessness through job training, mental health services, and pathways to permanent housing; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The "Recover Boston" proposal aims to eliminate the open-air drug market in the "Mass & Cass" area, increase treatment options, and reduce homelessness in Boston by creating a safe, structured environment for recovery, providing individualized treatment, and reducing the environmental factors that perpetuate substance use disorders and homelessness; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The proposed recovery campus will house over 200 individuals in housing units, with separate recovery zones providing critical services such as detox, mental health support, job training, life skills development, and housing placement; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The creation of the "Recover Boston" proposal is supported by various public and private entities, including the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, the

Massachusetts State Legislature, the Boston City Council, local businesses, philanthropic organizations, and community partners; *and*

WHEREAS, The implementation of a recovery campus will provide immediate relief to those suffering from substance use disorders and homelessness while creating long-term solutions for their reintegration into society as productive, self-sufficient individuals; *and*

WHEREAS, The “Recover Boston” proposal includes critical enforcement mechanisms to uphold public safety, including a no-tent ordinance, strict enforcement of laws against open-air drug use, and coordinated enforcement of crimes such as drug dealing and human trafficking; *and* **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council supports the "Recover Boston" proposal as a comprehensive and humane solution to the city's homelessness and substance abuse crisis, and commits to advocating for the necessary funding, resources, and support from local, state, and federal governments, as well as private and philanthropic sectors, to ensure the successful implementation of this plan; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council calls for the immediate creation of a task force to work in partnership with the Mayor’s office, the Governor, the State Legislature, and other relevant stakeholders to begin planning the construction and operation of the recovery campus, with a focus on expediting the timeline for opening and ensuring that adequate resources are allocated for the success of the initiative; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council commits to working alongside affected communities, service providers, law enforcement, and public health experts to ensure that the recovery campus is built with the input and needs of the community in mind, and that its services are accessible, effective, and equitable; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED: That the City Council work with the Massachusetts State Legislature to encourage the Governor, and the federal government to prioritize the allocation of funds necessary to support this proposal and help make it a model for addressing homelessness and substance abuse throughout the Commonwealth.

Filed: January 29, 2025