

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD M. FLYNN



## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE BLACKSTONE POOL AND AN INDEPENDENT ENGINEERING STUDY ON REPAIRS

- WHEREAS,** The Blackstone Community Center and Boston Public Schools (BPS) pool has historically served communities of color in the South End and Roxbury, including the residents of Villa Victoria and BHA Ruth Barkley apartments. It has been closed indefinitely due to structural issues, a deteriorated pool shell, drain line failure, and groundwater intrusion; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Of the 18 pools operated by Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF), nine were closed for the summer of 2025, significantly limiting access to swim lessons and recreational water activities, which are vital for public safety, health, and youth development. In the summer 2026, 16 of the 18 pools have been reopened, with the exception of the Blackstone pool and the Mirabella pool; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston's FY27–FY31 Capital Plan includes \$500,000 for the Blackstone School Study, which will determine the scope of major renovations at the school and pool. A complete renovation will take years to complete; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This pool closure exacerbates disparities in exposure to hotter summers and denies enrichment opportunities for communities of color and immigrants; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In June 2026, the Council held a hearing on the overall condition of BCYF pools, where Boston Public Schools informed the body that reopening Blackstone would require a full excavation to understand the full scope of damage and major renovations to BCYF Blackstone; *and*
- WHEREAS,** It is critical that the Blackstone pool undergo an independent engineering study on how to fix the pool. Failure to invest the appropriate resources in the Blackstone pool is an issue of social, economic, environmental and racial justice; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the status of the Blackstone swimming pool and call for an independent engineering study, and that Boston Center for Youth and Families, Boston Public Schools, experts in engineering, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: July 8, 2026