

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE THE CIRCUMSTANCES SURROUNDING IN-CUSTODY DEATHS AT THE SUFFOLK COUNTY HOUSE OF CORRECTION AND SYSTEMIC FACTORS CONTRIBUTING TO MORTALITY IN CUSTODY

WHEREAS, The death of individuals in custody raises serious concerns regarding public safety, accountability, and the protection of civil rights within correctional facilities; *and*

WHEREAS, Over the past five years, there have been over 20 deaths in custody across Suffolk County correctional facilities, including several at the Suffolk County House of Correction, indicating a concerning pattern of mortality within a relatively short period of time; *and*

WHEREAS, The death of Shacoby Kenny, which occurred in December 2025 following an altercation with correctional officers, has raised significant questions regarding the use of force, staff conduct, and the adequacy of emergency response and medical care provided to individuals in custody; *and*

WHEREAS, Reporting and legal filings have highlighted concerns related to underlying health conditions, access to timely and appropriate medical and mental health care, and whether systemic deficiencies may contribute to preventable deaths in custody at the Suffolk County House of Correction; *and*

WHEREAS, Advocates, legal representatives, and members of the public have called for greater transparency, accountability, and oversight into both individual incidents and the broader conditions within the Suffolk County House of Correction; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the circumstances surrounding recent in-custody deaths at the Suffolk County House of Correction, with a particular focus on the December 2025 incident, as well as the systemic factors contributing to deaths in custody, including the use of force, access to medical and mental health care, and institutional policies and practices, and that relevant government agencies and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: April 29, 2026