

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS EDWARD M. FLYNN & ERIN MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS IMMEDIATELY REINSTATING THE \$724,000 CUT FROM DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS SERVICES FROM THE RECOMMENDED FY27 OPERATING BUDGET

WHEREAS, Our veterans have made invaluable contributions to Boston through their service and sacrifices; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2023, the Boston City Council voted to cut \$900,000 from Boston Veterans Services. This was a 14% reduction in an already humble budget; *and*

WHEREAS, According to reports in the Boston Globe on April 21, 2026, Massachusetts has lost 855 workers from the Veterans Health Administration (VHA) in 2025, and 591 workers were hired during that time, resulting in a net loss of 264 workers from the VHA; *and*

WHEREAS, The recommended FY27 Operating Budget once again indicates a 14.6% reduction amounting to \$724,000. This will negatively impact low income veterans. We are a nation at war! It is never acceptable, under any circumstances, to cut services or programs for veterans and military families. We must not balance the city budget on the backs of veterans and military families. We must always uphold our solemn promise to those who served our nation by ensuring they are treated with the dignity and respect they earned. It's about respect and dignity for veterans and military families and keeping that sacred promise; *and*

WHEREAS, We must stay true to President Lincoln's promise to care for those who have served in our nation's military and for their families, caregivers, and survivors. Investment in our veterans not only honors their contributions, but also strengthens the fabric of our community by ensuring that no one is left behind; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the immediate reinstatement of the \$724,000 cut from the Department of Veterans Services the recommended FY27 Operating Budget.

Filed on: May 6, 2026