



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING CITYWIDE SPENDING CONTROLS, HIRING CONSTRAINTS, AND FISCAL OUTLOOK ACROSS DEPARTMENTS

WHEREAS, recent public reporting has indicated that the Administration has implemented citywide spending controls, including limitations on hiring, overtime, travel, contracts, and other departmental expenditures; and

WHEREAS, these directives were communicated to department heads through a centralized memorandum issued by senior members of the Administration, establishing consistent guidance across City departments; and

WHEREAS, such directives have significant implications for staffing, service delivery, program operations, and the overall functioning of City government, and may impact the City's workforce as well as the residents who rely on essential services; and

WHEREAS, the Boston City Council is responsible for reviewing, approving, and providing oversight of the City's budget, including departmental spending and personnel levels, and requires full transparency to effectively carry out these responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, the Boston City Council has not been provided with the memorandum or related communications issued to departments directing these spending controls, nor has the Council been formally briefed or engaged regarding potential reductions in spending, staffing, or services arising from these directives; and

WHEREAS, these spending controls are being implemented amid broader fiscal pressures, including rising personnel and benefit costs, the conclusion of federal relief funding, and uncertainty in key revenue sources such as commercial property tax collections; and

WHEREAS, clarity is needed regarding when departments were first instructed to prepare for spending reductions or hiring constraints, what assumptions are guiding current fiscal projections, and how decisions are being made to manage potential shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, it is critical for the Council and the public to understand the scope, timeline, and anticipated impacts of these measures in order to ensure transparency, accountability, and responsible financial planning;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the implementation of citywide spending controls and hiring constraints, including the directives issued to departments, the fiscal conditions necessitating these actions, and the projected impacts on staffing, services, and operations across City government, and to provide timely clarity and accountability from the appropriate members of the Administration.