



OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN & ERIN
MURPHY

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION INTO THE CITY'S JULY 4TH PAYROLL FAILURE TO DETERMINE IF STATE OR FEDERAL EMPLOYMENT LAWS WERE BROKEN

WHEREAS: Independence Day is one of the most anticipated holidays of the year, an opportunity to make vacation plans, and spend time with neighbors, friends, and family. This year, however, many city employees discovered they did not receive their paycheck via direct deposit due to the failure of the city payroll; *and*

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council Committee on City Services and Innovation Technology held an informative hearing with city administration officials on August 14th, 2025 (Docket #1371- *Order for an expedited hearing on the City's July 4th payroll delay and its impacts on affected employees*). At this hearing, City Councilors asked administration officials testifying if any state or federal employment laws were broken; *and*

WHEREAS: At that time, administration officials were not able to confirm if the City of Boston broke any state or federal employment laws; *and*

WHEREAS: According to the Massachusetts Wage Act (M.G.L. c. 149, § 148), "*Every person having employees in his service shall pay weekly or bi-weekly each such employee the wages earned by him to within six days of the termination of the pay period during which the wages were earned if employed for five or six days in a calendar week.*" The pay period ended on June 28th, therefore employees would have needed to be paid by July 4th. Thousands of employees were unfortunately paid after this deadline; *and*

WHEREAS: It is therefore wholly appropriate to conduct an independent investigation to determine whether the City of Boston inadvertently broke state or federal employment laws. An investigation may also provide the opportunity for recommendations to the City of Boston to prevent similar incidents from occurring again; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Boston City Council supports an independent outside investigation into the city's July 4th payroll failure to determine if any state or federal employment laws were broken.

Filed on: August 27, 2025