

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN AND MICHAEL FLAHERTY, ARROYO, BAKER, BOK, BREADON, COLETTA, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE SAFETY OF LIGHT POLES, BRIDGES, AND OTHER PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:** On September 27th, 2022, a pedestrian was injured when struck by a falling light pole while she was crossing the Evelyn Moakley Bridge in the South Boston Waterfront; *and*
- WHEREAS:** After the incident, Public Works Department subsequently inspected all city bridges in the area and removed 23 of the light poles that were deemed not completely satisfactory, with two additional light poles already removed previously under different circumstances; *and*
- WHEREAS:** With temporary lighting installed, Public Works Department will also work with their bridge engineers and design consultants to ensure that the replacements can withstand the elements of salt water and sea air which led to this incident; *and*
- WHEREAS:** This incident illustrates the need to ensure that our light poles, bridges, and other public infrastructure are safe and stable for our residents and visitors alike, including our pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists, especially as harsh weather, sea air, and salt water can deteriorate the city's infrastructure; *and*
- WHEREAS:** As a coastal city with many bridges, and as a city with harsh New England weather, light poles and public infrastructure inevitably get corroded by salt water and the elements, and we need to ensure that they are safe, especially those that are in close proximity to the ocean; *and*
- WHEREAS:** It is critical that the City be diligent in inspecting all of its light poles, bridges, and public infrastructure to make any necessary repairs in a timely manner, and working to the best of our ability with our state and federal partners to ensure that incident like this will not happen again; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the safety of light poles and public infrastructure in the City of Boston. The appropriate City of Boston officials, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.