

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, HENRY SANTANA,
BENJAMIN WEBER, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FERNANDES ANDERSON,
FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO IMPROVE RECRUITMENT OF CIVILIAN CROSSING GUARDS TO SERVE BOSTON FAMILIES

- WHEREAS,** Students represent one in every ten residents of our community, and we have a moral responsibility to design our city’s traffic systems to keep them and their families safe coming to and from school at all ages and stages of life; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Crossing guards assist young people and their caretakers across busy intersections at peak traffic times, protecting children who may not fully understand pedestrian etiquette and safety considerations; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Evidence indicates that areas near schools on schools days experience more accidents and injuries than normal, highlighting the need for our city to explore creative solutions to improve pedestrian safety overall; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Walking to school is a sustainable and healthful option for our community’s kids that can also reduce traffic congestion and accommodate caretakers who often have busy work schedules; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Crossing guards can also greet and mentor students, underlining how casual friendships have been shown to improve people’s sense of wellbeing and community connection by the 85-year Harvard Study of Adult Development; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Our community currently has 51 unfilled vacancies for crossing guards, a shortage that can divert police officers from availability for calls and one that merits a new approach to recruiting and structuring these roles for retention; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Many Massachusetts cities treat crossing guards as civilian roles, including Watertown, Braintree, Concord, and Lexington, creating a precedent for the City of Boston to be creative in how it recruits and deploys crossing guards; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee hold a hearing on how to improve recruitment and deployment of crossing guards, including discussion of which department ought to oversee these employees, with representatives from Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Transportation Department, Boston Police Department, and the public invited to testify.

Filed on: July 10, 2024