

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS EDWARD M. FLYNN & ERIN MURPHY



## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BOSTON'S ALLEGED NONCOMPLIANCE AND LACK OF TRANSPARENCY IN THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston received approximately \$560 million in federal funding for pandemic recovery, which was fully committed by the end of 2024 and must be expended by the end of 2026; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In May 2025, it was reported that a Boston Main Streets program allegedly misspent \$32,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds; *and*

**WHEREAS,** There is concern that this incident may not be isolated and that additional instances of misallocation or required return of federal funds may have occurred, including among nonprofit recipients; *and*

**WHEREAS,** On March 4, 2026, the Boston City Council passed Docket #0491 *Order requesting certain information under Section 17F regarding the use of \$558.7 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds in the City of Boston.* The Council received a response from the Administration on April 8, 2026; however, the limited response did not address whether the City requested the return of ARPA funds from any nonprofit organizations or small businesses; *and*

**WHEREAS,** There is a significant need to determine whether the City of Boston has identified similar cases and whether it has communicated with any organizations regarding the return of ARPA funds; *and*

**WHEREAS,** A request contained in a January 2026 letter to Boston's Chief of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion seeking information relating to the misappropriation of federal funds, regardless of the amount, as well as whether the City communicated with any organization that received these funds to return them back to the City was not responded to. Ultimately, these questions were unanswered until Docket #0491 was filed; *and*

**WHEREAS,** It is critical that Boston is in compliance with city, state, and federal regulations. We must demonstrate fiscal discipline, transparency and accountability; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss Boston's alleged noncompliance and lack of transparency in the use of federal funds, and that the City of Boston Law Department, the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: April 15, 2026