

**OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN J. MURPHY**



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING PROCEDURES  
FOLLOWING A VACANCY IN THE OFFICE OF DISTRICT  
CITY COUNCILOR**

**WHEREAS**, the Boston City Charter outlines procedures for filling vacancies in the offices of city councilors-at-large and district city councilors, including timelines for notifications and special elections ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Charter does not explicitly address the status and responsibilities of the staff employed by a district city councilor who vacates their office before the end of their term; and

**WHEREAS**, the absence of clear guidelines has led to varying interpretations and practices regarding the continuation of constituent services and staff duties during the interim period before a new councilor is elected and sworn in; and

**WHEREAS**, ensuring uninterrupted constituent services is vital for maintaining public trust and effective governance; and

**WHEREAS**, establishing standardized procedures will provide clarity for council staff, city departments, and the public during transitions in council representation;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:** That the Boston City Council's Committee of the Whole convene a hearing to examine the current practices and legal frameworks governing staff roles and constituent services following a vacancy in the office of a district city councilor. The hearing will aim to:

- Assess existing policies and identify any gaps or inconsistencies;
- Explore best practices from other municipalities;
- Develop recommendations for formalizing procedures to ensure continuity of services.

Representatives from the City Clerk's Office, the City Council's Legal Advisor, Human Resources, and other relevant departments shall be invited to provide testimony and insights.

Filed in Council: March 30, 2025