

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MINIARD CULPEPPER, EDWARD M. FLYNN, JOHN FITZGERALD, BREADON, DURKAN, LOUIJEUNE, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



## **CITY OF BOSTON**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX**

### **ORDER FOR A HEARING ON THE STATUS OF THE SOUTH END BRANCH LIBRARY REOPENING**

**WHEREAS,** The South End Branch of the Boston Public Library has been closed since April 2021 due to repeated flooding, and full reopening of a new permanent facility is not currently expected until at least 2027; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Nearly 50,000 residents of the South End have been without a neighborhood library for more than four years, forcing reliance on distant branches and creating a significant gap in access to essential public resources; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Prior to its closure, the South End Branch served as a vital educational and civic hub, providing children's programming, early literacy initiatives, technology access, workforce development services, English language learning programs, and free community gathering space; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The prolonged loss of these services has disproportionately impacted children, families, seniors, immigrants, and low-income residents, eliminating access to homework help, computer and internet use, ESOL groups, senior programming, and neighborhood meeting space; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Residents and organizations in the South End have repeatedly identified feasible and cost-effective options for consistent temporary library services during the closure, yet current offerings remain limited; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Fiscal Year 2026 capital budget included a \$32,000,000 appropriation for the reopening of the South End Branch Library, yet the projected reopening timeline remains unclear and more transparency is needed regarding the current project schedule, anticipated milestones, and a clear reopening date; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the prolonged closure of the South End Branch of the Boston Public Library, the timeline and status of its reopening, and the availability and adequacy of temporary library services for South End residents during the extended closure.

Filed on: February 11, 2026