

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS EDWARD M. FLYNN, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE ROLE, RESPONSIBILITIES, AND STAFFING LEVELS OF THE OFFICE OF NEIGHBORHOOD SERVICES (ONS) IN LIGHT OF BOSTON'S FISCAL CRISIS

WHEREAS, The Office of Neighborhood Services (ONS) is intended to facilitate and attend communities meetings, assist residents with basic city services, share information with the community, and report neighborhood feedback and relevant information to the City of Boston, including to various entities such as the Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) and the Boston Licensing Board (BLB); *and*

WHEREAS, Traditionally, ONS was also responsible for hosting the community process and meetings on zoning and licensing projects in the neighborhood that required variances and approval at City of Boston boards. In November 2021, however, ONS was restructured to include three Community Engagement Specialists assigned to various neighborhoods across the city to facilitate the community process, including abutters meetings. These meetings are intended to play a critical role in the community engagement process by obtaining feedback from those neighbors most impacted by a particular project; *and*

WHEREAS, During these challenging economic times, with reports that the City of Boston currently holds a budget shortfall over \$100 million, it is critical to carefully review and discuss the role, responsibilities, and staffing levels at the Office of Neighborhood Services, along with how its budget is allocated, to ensure that taxpayer funds are being used efficiently and responsibly; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the role, responsibilities, and staffing levels at the Office of Neighborhood Services, and that the Office of Neighborhood Services and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.