

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



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING SUPPORT FOR BOSTON'S MAIN STREETS ORGANIZATIONS

WHEREAS, Boston Main Streets is a pioneering public-private initiative launched to revitalize and strengthen the commercial districts that serve as economic and cultural hubs for Boston's neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Main Streets program provides vital support to local businesses, helps to preserve historic assets, and fosters economic development and job creation in neighborhoods across the city; *and*

WHEREAS, Main Streets organizations are crucial to the survival and growth of small businesses, many of which are people of color or immigrant-owned, and which contribute significantly to the character and economy of Boston's communities; *and*

WHEREAS, Main Streets organizations face challenges related to access to capital, workforce development, marketing, infrastructure, and navigating complex permitting and zoning processes; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has the potential to increase its support for Main Streets organizations through initiatives such as increased financial support, simplified permitting, marketing support, improved infrastructure, workforce development, enhanced promotion of local businesses, and sustainability programs; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston must ensure that its support for Main Streets is inclusive, equitable, and responsive to the needs of all neighborhoods, particularly those historically underserved or underfunded in Black and Brown communities; *and*

WHEREAS, A coordinated, comprehensive approach is needed to enhance the effectiveness and impact of the Main Streets program for the benefit of Boston's small business community and local economies; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED**,

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore how the City of Boston can provide increased and targeted support to the Main Streets program, and that all Main Streets organizations, local businesses, and other relevant stakeholders be invited to testify.