

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITIES, PUBLIC ASSETS, AND WHITE STADIUM

- WHEREAS,** The condition, availability, and long-term planning of school facilities play a central role in educational equity, student safety, athletic access, and community trust across Boston Public Schools, and longstanding disparities in building quality and investment continue to shape unequal experiences for students and school communities citywide; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston Public Schools is managing significant facilities challenges, including aging buildings, deferred maintenance, accessibility and ADA compliance needs, climate resilience requirements, and uneven access to athletic and extracurricular spaces across schools; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston Public Schools is also experiencing declining enrollment, staffing constraints, school closures or consolidations, and a projected budget shortfall of at least \$53 million, all of which heighten the importance of ensuring that facilities decisions directly support core educational and student needs; *and*
- WHEREAS,** White Stadium is a Boston Public Schools athletic facility used for school athletics and student programming, and changes to its governance, scheduling, or long-term use directly affect student access to athletic opportunities and school-based programming; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston has proposed a major redevelopment of White Stadium through a public-private partnership that would significantly alter how a Boston Public Schools facility is operated and accessed, including long-term agreements that may grant a private professional sports tenant priority use, raising concerns about student access, instructional scheduling, and public accountability; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City has committed at least \$91 million of municipal capital funding toward the White Stadium redevelopment at a time when many Boston

Public Schools facilities face unmet instructional, athletic, and accessibility needs, raising questions about how such investments align with district-wide facilities priorities that serve students across the system; *and*

WHEREAS, The scope, cost, and timeline of the White Stadium project have evolved, yet key details—including a complete final design, a guaranteed maximum project cost, and clear protections for student priority access—have not been fully disclosed, limiting the ability of educators, families, and policymakers to assess educational impacts; *and*

WHEREAS, Decisions involving long-term private use of school facilities and significant capital investment in a single athletic site may establish precedent affecting how Boston Public Schools facilities are prioritized, accessed, and governed in the future, warranting careful review through an educational equity and student-centered lens; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine the condition, planning, funding, and governance of Boston Public Schools facilities, with a focused and in-depth review of the White Stadium redevelopment proposal, including its implications for BPS students, athletic programming, public access, long-term financial commitments, and equity across the school system.

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