

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN J. MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A STATE OF EMERGENCY AT THE INTERSECTION OF MASSACHUSETTS AVENUE AND MELNEA CASS BOULEVARD

WHEREAS, As the Chair of Public Health, Mental Health and Recovery I asked the Boston Public Health Commission to vote at its meeting this Wednesday on a State of Emergency in the area of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard. The request was in hopes of addressing a dire situation with a sense of urgency – one this body, in light of the fact that we have received no response, evidently does not share.

WHEREAS, We need to respond to the ongoing tragedy of substance use disorder, mental illness, open use of illegal drugs, violence, criminality, and disturbance of urban life that has gone on for far too long. We have reached a stage where dramatic intervention is vital in the area and we need real solutions that address underlying problems and causes; and

WHEREAS, The “Mass and Cass” situation is worsening, not improving. Businesses are suffering, youth activity programs have been jeopardized, and our first responders are subject to dangerous conditions that exceed what should reasonably be expected of people already performing difficult jobs. Long ago, this exceeded the quality of life threshold and has become an outright Public Health Emergency.

WHEREAS, In truth, the intersection of Mass and Cass has borne the toll and I believe we need swift and comprehensive action to begin the process of bringing relief to this area and the people suffering there. This is an urgent situation with a humanitarian toll.; *Therefore be it*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council declares a State of Emergency for this area in the City of Boston.

Filed on: September 13, 2023