

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS CREATION
OF A SNOW CORPS IN BOSTON**

WHEREAS, During snowstorms, the City of Boston is responsible for clearing the roadway while property owners are responsible for clearing their sidewalks, but often sections of sidewalk and crosswalks, along main neighborhood corridors, and in front of government properties, are not cleared fully; *and*

WHEREAS, Property owners who are on a fixed income and are seniors or disabled don't have the means or physical ability to remove snow from their property, and can be stuck in their house for days after a storm; *and*

WHEREAS, Other cities such as Chicago and Baltimore utilize a Snow Corps, which matches volunteers with seniors and disabled persons who need help shoveling; *and*

WHEREAS, After snowfall, navigating near businesses, schools, day cares, libraries, community centers, and other areas can be dangerous or impossible, and snow clearance duties can put an extra strain on everyday city employees, such as when a principal ends up shoveling sidewalks in front of a school; *and*

WHEREAS, The city might be well served by hiring temporary seasonal employees to help shovel and sand key spots in neighborhoods, allowing them to be deployed depending upon the severity of the storm; *and*

WHEREAS, The City Council and the Wu Administration already collaborated to appropriate American Rescue Plan funding to launch a pilot in past winters, that worked to clear ramps and sidewalks in local Main Streets districts across the city; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston should use the information gathered from past winters and the current winter to continue to make progress toward providing a supplemental snow removal service on sidewalks during winter snow storms above a certain level of severity and snow accumulation, which could also provide additional local workforce development opportunities, and the City of Boston should also pilot a Snow Corps program that would connect volunteers to seniors and persons with disabilities to get their sidewalks shoveled; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss progress toward a supplemental sidewalk clearance program and a volunteer Snow Corps in the City of Boston, and that representatives from the

Public Works Department, 311, the Office of Workforce Development, the Office of Budget Management, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 2, 2026