



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE SAFETY OF CONSTRUCTION SITES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: The City of Boston is experiencing an unprecedented building boom, with large scale construction sites set up in various neighborhoods, including the South Boston Waterfront, the South End, Downtown, Back Bay, the West End, and Allston-Brighton; *and*

WHEREAS: These large construction sites have heavy machinery and tall cranes on site, and the equipment is in close proximity to construction workers, as well as residents, pedestrians, motorists, and cyclists; *and*

WHEREAS: Last year, two men were killed at a construction site in Downtown, and the construction company where the two men were employed was fined \$1.3 million for safety violations, yet, this contractor is being fined again this week for \$624,777 because of failure to protect workers at a construction site in East Boston; *and*

WHEREAS: Construction accidents are unfortunately not uncommon. In 2019, a construction crane collapsed on top of a building belonging to Google in Seattle, killing two construction workers and two passers-by below, as well as injuring four others; *and*

WHEREAS: A construction worker was struck and killed by equipment while setting up "First Night" celebrations in Boston late 2019; other accidents include an incident where a woman was seriously injured by falling debris from a construction site in the North End in July of 2019, a fire at the construction site for the planned Moxy Hotel in the Theatre District in April of 2019, a fire at the Hub on Causeway site in March of 2019, a 2018 accident that injured a construction worker on that same site, and a 2016 crane accident that killed one worker in the Longwood Medical Area; *and*

WHEREAS: These tragedies illustrate the importance of construction site safety, especially when cranes and machinery are set up in areas with dense pedestrian traffic, or above streets with heavy traffic, such as in the neighborhoods of South Boston, Downtown, Chinatown, the South End, Allston, Beacon Hill, and the Back Bay; *and*

WHEREAS: Construction workers are also at high risk of suffering occupational injuries and fatalities, and according to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), 20.7% of worker fatalities were in the construction industry in 2017; *and*

WHEREAS: It is imperative that our residents and construction workers are safe in and around the areas of these construction sites, especially considering our densely populated neighborhoods, and we need to ensure that these construction sites have safety procedures that protect their workers and residents; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the existing safety procedures and precautions at construction sites and ways that the City can ensure the protection and well-being of our workers and residents. Representatives from the Inspectional Services Department, Boston Police, Massachusetts Coalition for Occupational Safety and Health, and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: February 16, 2022