

Offered by City Councilor Julia Mejia, Tania Fernandes Anderson, Arroyo, Bok, Breadon, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Louijeune, Murphy, Worrell and Flynn



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING ADDRESSING DATA PRIVACY,
SECURITY, AND CONTROL AT CITY OF BOSTON AGENCIES**

- WHEREAS,** The residents of Boston place enormous trust in City agencies to effectively protect and safeguard their personal information; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Many residents must disclose personal information to City agencies in order to receive City services upon which they rely; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Low-income people are particularly reliant upon City services and therefore tend to provide more personal information to the City than do their wealthier neighbors; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Data breaches, leaks, and hacks, and the misuse and abuse of personal information, can and do occur in government and private industry at all levels; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City Council, the Wu Administration, and resident advocates have been working together to improve and streamline privacy and security practices throughout City agencies; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Many residents are unaware of the ways in which City agencies collect, share, and protect their personal information, their rights to control the sharing and use of their personal information, the City's ongoing efforts to improve privacy and data security practices, and existing laws and procedures meant to safeguard personal information; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Increased transparency surrounding the City's current and future efforts to safeguard personal information, and existing policies, procedures, training mechanisms, and laws aimed at securing personal information, is necessary in order for the City Council and the residents of Boston to provide meaningful accountability and oversight of the City's existing practices and procedures,
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address data privacy, security, and control in City of Boston agencies. The hearing will include representatives from

the administration, including the Boston Public Schools, the Boston Housing Authority, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Boston Transportation Department, and the Boston Department of Innovation and Technology. Representatives of organizations with expertise on data privacy, immigrants rights, and the disparate impact of data collection on low-income people, and members of the public are also encouraged to testify virtually.

Filed in Council: March 8, 2023