

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN, BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, WEBER AND LOUIJEUNE



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE MELANOMA DETECTION TRAINING FOR BEAUTY AND WELLNESS PROFESSIONALS

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is committed to researching and advancing innovative strategies to improve public health and safety for all residents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Melanoma, the most fatal form of skin cancer, is a growing public health concern, and early detection is critical for saving lives; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Screenable cancers are among the top three causes of premature mortality in Boston, a priority the City is addressing through the Live Long and Well Agenda, a plan to improve life expectancy and reduce racial and ethnic health disparities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Approximately 50% of melanomas go undetected through self-examination, with many cases first discovered by individuals outside the medical field, particularly those in professions with regular visibility of clients' skin; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Beauty and wellness professionals, including hair stylists, barbers, estheticians, nail technicians, massage therapists, and others, routinely observe areas of skin that are not easily visible to clients and often notice suspicious spots without formal training; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Several states and municipalities have implemented training programs for personal care professionals, improving early detection and referrals, and online courses exist to support this effort; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Relational organizing and community engagement are key tenets of public health, and the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) is an independent public agency whose mission is to provide and support accessible, high-quality, community-based health services and programs; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Partnering with IMPACT Melanoma, BPHC has successfully organized pop-up melanoma screening events as part of prevention-organized programs to promote community health; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Working alongside Boston's top hospitals and research institutions, some of the nation's leading cancer centers, which are required to invest in community health initiatives, the City has a unique opportunity to lead in public health innovation. Dana-Farber, for example, has committed \$60,000,000 in mitigation funding for its new cancer hospital in the Longwood Medical Area, creating a pathway to support early detection and melanoma awareness within the beauty and wellness sector; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council convene a hearing to explore the feasibility and public health benefits of the BPHC developing a program in partnership with Boston's cancer hospitals to provide skin cancer detection training to beauty and wellness professionals. The hearing should include input from the Small Business Department, professional licensing boards, local dermatologists and cosmetology schools, cancer prevention advocates, and personal care professionals.

Filed on: August 4, 2025