



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING OCCUPATIONAL CANCER RISKS FOR BOSTON FIREFIGHTERS, AND PROGRAMS THE CITY OF BOSTON OFFERS OR COULD OFFER FOR PREVENTION, DIAGNOSIS, AND TREATMENT

WHEREAS, Firefighters have a 9% higher risk of being diagnosed with cancer, and additionally have a 14% higher risk of dying of cancer, according to research by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and National Institute for Occupational Health and Safety (NIOSH); *and*

WHEREAS, Sufficient evidence of these increased cancer risks for firefighters led the International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) to conclude in July 2022 that occupational exposure as a Firefighter is carcinogenic to humans (Group 1); *and*

WHEREAS, Cancer caused 66% of the career firefighter line-of-duty deaths from 2002 to 2019, according to data from the International Association of Fire Fighters, as published by the nonprofit Firefighter Cancer Support Network; *and*

WHEREAS, Firefighters have more than double the risk for testicular cancer and double the risk for mesothelioma; over one-and-a-half times the risk for multiple myeloma and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma; and 14-39% increased risk of skin cancer, malignant melanoma, brain cancer, prostate cancer, colon cancer, and leukemia; *and*

WHEREAS, A 2008 study comparing incidence rates of cancer among Massachusetts firefighters to those of Massachusetts police officers based on data from 1987-2003 found that firefighters had a 90% higher risk for brain cancer and an 81% higher risk for Hodgkin's lymphoma. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing regarding occupational cancer risks for Boston Firefighters, and programs the City of Boston offers or could offer for prevention, diagnosis, and treatment. Representatives from the Boston Fire Department; Boston Firefighters Local 718, International Association of Fire Fighters, AFL-CIO; and public health experts will be invited, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.