



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A COMMITTEE MEETING TO DISCUSS THE ORGANIZATION OF QUASI-PUBLIC AND SEMI-INDEPENDENT ENTITIES RELATED TO THE CITY OF BOSTON

**WHEREAS,** There are several entities related to the City of Boston that are authorities, commissions, corporations, or other agencies which are organized as quasi-public, semi-independent, or instrumentalities of the Commonwealth serving as legally separate bodies for which the City has varying degrees of oversight, appointing authority, and financial accountability; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Official publications detail the function and fiscal status of quasi-public and semi-independent entities as governmental component units of the City, including in the Office of Budget Management's annual fiscal year budget document and in the Auditing Department's Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), *and*

**WHEREAS,** As public bodies subject to the Open Meeting Law, notices and agendas of hearings and meetings of such entities are accessible on the Public Notices section of the City of Boston website, including those archived since 2016, *and*

**WHEREAS,** Several notable such entities include the Boston Housing Authority (BHA), Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) and the Economic Development Industrial Corporation (EDIC) d/b/a Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), the Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC), the Boston Finance Commission ("FinComm"), and the Trustees of the Boston Public Library (TPL); *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Boston Housing Authority (BHA) is a public body politic and corporate that is an instrumentality of the Commonwealth legally separate from the City, managed and controlled by an Administrator appointed by the Mayor, overseen by a Monitoring Committee appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC) was established in 1995 a quasi-independent body politic and corporate that is an instrumentality of the Commonwealth legally separate from the City, and is governed by a seven-member board, six of whom are appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, and one of whom is the chief executive officer of the Boston Medical Center; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Boston Redevelopment Authority (BRA) d/b/a Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) was established in 1957 as a public body politic and corporate legally separate from the City, combining the City's redevelopment and planning board authority with certain powers of the state Department of Community Affairs, and is governed by a five-member board, with four appointed

by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council, and one appointed by the Governor; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Economic Development and Industrial Corporation (EDIC) d/b/a Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA) established in 1971 as a quasi-public body politic and corporate, legally separate from the City as an entity of the Commonwealth, functions separately from the BRA but is governed by the same board members following a 1993 merger, and is affiliated with the Boston Local Development Corporation (BLDC), Boston Industrial Development Financing Authority (BIDFA), and the Mayor's Office of Workforce Development (OWD); *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Boston Water and Sewer Commission (BWSC) was established in 1977 as a public body politic and corporate that is an instrumentality of the Commonwealth legally separate from the City, and is overseen by a three-member Board of Commissioners appointed by the Mayor and confirmed by the City Council; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Boston Finance Commission was initially established by Order of the City Council in 1907 and in the City Charter in 1909, comprises five commissioners appointed by the Governor, and operates as a non-mayoral department; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Trustees of the Boston Public Library is a non-profit, tax-exempt organization founded in 1848 to facilitate the City's public library system, is legally separate from the City, governed by trustees appointed by the Mayor; *and*

**WHEREAS,** It is of the public interest and the responsibility of the legislative branch of city government to both be familiar with the general organization of the several quasi-public and independent entities of the City of Boston, as well as to review their respective enabling acts from time to time; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a committee meeting to discuss the organization of quasi-public and semi-independent entities related to the City of Boston, and that the appropriate representatives of the Law Department, Office of Intergovernmental Relations, and Mayoral Administration, and members of the public be invited to attend.

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