

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, HENRY SANTANA, MINIARD
CULPEPPER, BREADON, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE,
MURPHY, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO IMPROVE RECRUITMENT OF CIVILIAN CROSSING GUARDS TO SERVE BOSTON FAMILIES

WHEREAS, One in every ten residents of our community is a student and we have a moral responsibility to design our city in a way that keeps them and their families safe when coming to and from school, at all ages and stages of life; *and*

WHEREAS, Crossing guards assist young people and their caretakers across busy intersections at peak traffic times, protecting children who may not fully understand pedestrian etiquette and safety considerations; *and*

WHEREAS, Evidence indicates that areas near schools on schools days experience more accidents and injuries than normal, highlighting the need for our city to explore creative solutions to improve pedestrian safety overall; *and*

WHEREAS, Walking to school is a sustainable and healthy option that can also reduce traffic congestion and accommodate caretakers who often have busy work schedules; *and*

WHEREAS, Our city had 52 crossing guard vacancies at the beginning of the 2024-2025 school year, and, despite improvements, vacancies continue to exist in FY26, vacancies which can divert police officers from responding to calls and other duties, necessitating a new approach to recruiting and structuring these roles for retention; *and*

WHEREAS, Many Massachusetts cities treat crossing guards as civilian roles, including Watertown, Braintree, Concord, and Lexington, creating a precedent for the City of Boston to be creative in how it recruits and deploys crossing guards; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee hold a hearing on how to improve recruitment and deployment of crossing guards, including discussion of which department ought to oversee these employees, with representatives from Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Transportation Department, Boston Police Department, and the public invited to testify.

Filed on: July 22, 2026