



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW AND UPDATE OF THE BOSTON E.M.S. SERVICE ZONE PLAN

- WHEREAS*, Chapter 111C of the General Laws governs the provision of emergency medical services (EMS) throughout Massachusetts, requiring cities and towns to submit comprehensive service zone plans to the Department of Public Health (DPH) defining the utilization and coordination of EMS resources; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Boston EMS is the designated primary ambulance service provider for the City of Boston, and its service zone plan, approved in September 2007, has undergone updates in 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2014, and 2016 to adopt revised response time goals, reflect evolving capacity, and to improve service delivery; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Boston EMS is one of the country's oldest providers of pre-hospital patient care and traces its history to the Boston City Hospital Ambulance Service, transporting its first patient in 1892 as a division of the Department of Health and Hospitals until it became a bureau of the Boston Public Health Commission, created by the Boston Public Health Act of 1995 [*St. 1995, c. 147, § 6(j)*]; *and*
- WHEREAS*, Coordinating EMS delivery for over 2 million residents in 61 cities and towns, the Metropolitan Boston EMS Council (EMS Region IV) supports the development of service zone plans, reviews completed plans, and, pursuant to 105 CMR 170.550, works with communities to keep approved plans up-to-date; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The City of Boston has seen substantial growth in its population and built environment since initial approval of the service zone plan, indicated by decennial census data enumerating 589,141 residents in 2000, 617,594 residents in 2010, and 675,647 residents in 2020, a nearly 15 percent increase over 20 years; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The Boston EMS Service Zone Plan states that the plan will be reviewed at least annually, recognizing the need for stakeholder input to accurately reflect ongoing changes and refinement in the delivery of EMS services, inventory of resources, and a plan for optimal coordination and utilization of those resources; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The 20th anniversary of the statutory requirement for service zone plans is approaching, making it timely to comprehensively review emergency medical services in response to the city's continuous growth; *NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT*
- ORDERED*: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss a comprehensive review and update of the Boston EMS Service Zone Plan and that representatives of Boston EMS, the Boston Public Health Commission, the Metropolitan Boston EMS Council, the EMS Division of the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, partner agencies, receiving facilities, and interested members of the public be invited to attend.