

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS JOHN FITZGERALD, ED FLYNN, ERIN MURPHY,
BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, MEJIA, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER,
WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER AND MENTAL HEALTH FUND TO ADDRESS THE MASS & CASS CRISIS

- WHEREAS,** The intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard—commonly referred to as “Mass & Cass”—continues to be the epicenter of overlapping public health crises including opioid addiction, homelessness and untreated mental illness; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston has invested significant financial, logistical and personnel resources toward addressing the conditions at Mass & Cass, including shelter expansion, public safety deployment, sanitation services, housing navigation and harm-reduction programming; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Data from the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Medical Center, and regional providers consistently show that a substantial percentage of individuals receiving services in and around Mass & Cass originate from municipalities outside the City of Boston; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Despite this regional reality, Boston has disproportionately borne the burden of crisis response—financially, operationally and politically—while many surrounding municipalities benefit from Boston’s services without contributing to their sustainability; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** A coordinated intermunicipal approach—supported by a dedicated funding mechanism—is essential to build long-term, systemic solutions that include housing, recovery and wraparound services for individuals struggling with addiction and homelessness; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Precedents for regional cost-sharing exist in the Commonwealth, including assessments for transportation (MBTA), emergency preparedness, and environmental impact mitigation, demonstrating the feasibility of such an approach; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** The opioid epidemic, homelessness, and behavioral health challenges know no municipal borders and require a shared, equity-minded strategy that reflects the collective responsibility of all Greater Boston communities; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore the creation of a Regional Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Fund—a pooled, intermunicipal fund requiring proportional financial contributions from Boston and surrounding cities and towns—to support coordinated, long-term solutions to the crisis at Mass & Cass. Representatives from the Boston Public Health Commission, the Mayor’s Coordinated Response Team, the Metropolitan Area Planning Council, the Massachusetts Municipal Association, regional municipal leaders and public health and housing advocates shall be invited to testify; **BE IT FURTHER**

ORDERED: That this hearing explores potential fund structures, equitable contribution formulas, permissible uses of the fund (e.g., housing, treatment, mobile outreach, public health infrastructure), and any legal or legislative pathways—such as a home rule petition or state enabling legislation—necessary to implement the fund.

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