



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE TEMPORARY
REPLACEMENT OF CONCURRENT PEDESTRIAN PHASING
TRAFFIC SIGNALS FOLLOWING SNOWSTORMS**

- WHEREAS:** Pedestrian safety is one of the biggest issues we face in the City of Boston and a critical component of public safety and overall quality of life. With snow removal operations leaving large snowbanks at the corner of many streets, it becomes all the more difficult for pedestrians to safely navigate crosswalks and intersections; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Residents throughout the city have called attention to the dangerous situations with concurrent phasing traffic signals, where pedestrian has a signal to cross the street at the very same time that vehicles have a signal to go and turn at an intersection, with the expectation that the motor vehicle will yield to the pedestrian in the crosswalks; *and*
- WHEREAS:** In 2019, a young couple was struck by a construction vehicle at an intersection with a concurrent phasing traffic signal at Summer Street & Melcher Street in the Fort Point area of South Boston. While the young man sustained serious injuries, the young woman tragically passed away from her injuries. Following that tragedy, the light was adjusted on the Summer Street side to provide a walk signal when cars have a red light. At that time, there were reports of hundreds of 311 cases on pedestrian safety due to concurrent phasing traffic signals. There were also reports indicating this practice goes back to the 1970s, at approximately 319 intersections in Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Following a significant snowstorm, it becomes even more difficult for residents to look past large piles of snow or snowbanks before crossing the street. However, this is especially concerning at intersections with concurrent phasing traffic signals, as pedestrians crossing the street have their field of vision blocked by a large snowbank while a motor vehicle is allowed to turn; *and*
- WHEREAS:** At a time of increased speeding with cars, distracted driving and walking, rideshares, and mopeds and e-bikes for food delivery -safety concerns on concurrent phasing traffic signals become exacerbated by the presence of large snowbanks on street corners. In the days and weeks following significant snow removal operations, it is critical that the City of Boston temporarily replace concurrent pedestrian phasing traffic signals in the interest of pedestrian safety; *and*

NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Boston City Council supports the temporary replacement of concurrent phasing traffic signals citywide following significant snowstorms to improve pedestrian safety.

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