

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD M. FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO STUDY A WAIVER FROM THE RESIDENCY REQUIREMENT & ALLOW FOR TRANSFERS FROM OTHER MUNICIPALITIES TO THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

- WHEREAS,** In July of 1980, the Boston municipal code mandate established that the Boston Police Department maintain a minimum of 2,500 sworn officers. In May, the police department reported 2,102 sworn officers. In July, the Boston Police Patrolmen's Association noted that the Department is down roughly 600 officers; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Current policies require Boston residency for at least one year prior to their civil service exam date. Amid current staffing and retention difficulties, it is critical to examine whether the residency requirement is now hindering the ability of the Boston Police Department to protect our city; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston Police Officers have worked more than 16 hour days for years, disregarding officers' personal physical and emotional well-being, as well as that of their families. Increases in transfers, voluntary retirements and resignations have resulted in mandatory overtime for police officers. This dynamic results in both the physical and emotional burnout in our officers, and potentially diminishes their ability to serve Boston residents, as well as protecting the public and themselves; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston Police needs a consistent influx of recruits to replace those that are retiring, resigning, and transferring to other police departments throughout Massachusetts to help prevent shortages. Waiving the residency requirement could potentially aid the recruitment process; *and*
- WHEREAS,** It is critical that the City of Boston act promptly to ensure that the Boston Police Department is comfortably in excess of 2,500 officers to prevent overstretched resources, mandatory overtime, and overworked officers that has resulted in these long-standing issues related to staffing levels; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the proposal to waive the residency requirement for police officers willing to transfer to the Boston Police Department. Representatives from the Boston Police Department, Boston Police Patrolmen's Association, the Boston Police Commissioner and the Boston City Council are invited to attend.

Filed on: August 5, 2026