

Offered by Councilors Kenzie Bok, Ruthzee Louijeune, Michael Flaherty, Baker, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Mejia, Murphy and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS TRASH CONTRACTS AND PROCEDURES IN BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is responsible for the collection of residential solid waste, including trash and recycling, the management whereof is foundational to public health, pest control, and the quality of life for Boston residents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City's guidance to residents is for trash to be placed on the curb between 5:00 PM the night before and 6:00 AM the day of scheduled collections in a container with a lid, a 2 ply bag, or plastic bag at least 0.9 millimeters thick; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The built environment of Boston is varied, with some neighborhoods having limited outdoor space to store or site trash containers for pickup, or the collection points for such trash being concentrated in front of certain addresses; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Recent 2022 City Council hearings have established the connection between the length of time trash is allowed out on the street, and the lack of lidded containers in certain areas, with negative sanitation realities for residents, such as loose or poorly contained trash providing sustenance to rodents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Certain neighborhoods have sought to initiate their own pilots to try to deal with these issues, including specialized small containers and voluntary placement of trash on the sidewalk for more limited time windows; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Department of Public Works has recently hired a position to scrutinize its trash contracts with an eye to how they could be modified and potentially even broken up into multiple contracts to allow for more customized approaches to waste collection needs in various neighborhoods; *and*
- WHEREAS,** A more customized set of trash contracts could also ensure more competitive opportunities for M/WBE businesses to compete to serve a portion of the city; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Preparation for this new overall approach to city trash collection could also include a trash containerization pilot at certain targeted downtown neighborhood locations;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss redesigning Boston's waste management contracts to provide more customized and effective service for city neighborhoods, and that representatives from the Public Works Department and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 15, 2022