

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO BRING MORE SIGNATURE SPORTS EVENTS TO BOSTON

WHEREAS, Boston professional sports teams have won 13 championship titles since 1999, more than any other city; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston has not hosted a professional All-Star Game since the Boston Red Sox hosted the 1999 MLB All-Star Game, has not hosted the NBA All-Star Game since 1964, and has never hosted an NFL Draft; *and*

WHEREAS, The 1999 MLB All-Star Game included iconic moments such as Mark McGwire's Home Run Derby performance, Pedro Martinez's 2-inning, 5-strikeout performance, and the pregame meeting of Ted Williams as part of the All-Century team nominees; *and*

WHEREAS, The 1964 NBA All-Star Game was historic for sports unions because a pregame players' strike vote spearheaded by Bill Russell led to the NBA Players Association being recognized as the first major sports union in the country; *and*

WHEREAS, The NFL Draft has been hosted by cities, including Chicago, Philadelphia, Las Vegas, and Detroit, and does not need to be held in a stadium setting; *and*

WHEREAS, Under current ownership, the Boston Red Sox are exploring hosting an MLB All-Star Game; *and*

WHEREAS, Under prior ownership, the Boston Celtics explored hosting an NBA All-Star Game, which would require two separate indoor venues, one for the All-Star Saturday Night and one for the All-Star Game; *and*

WHEREAS, The Greater Cleveland Sports Commission analysis indicates that the 2022 NBA All-Star Game attracted \$141.4 million in direct spending, generated \$248.9 million in total economic impact, produced \$50 million in earned media value, and received \$11.9 billion in total media reach; *and*

WHEREAS, The 2022 NBA All-Star Game attracted 121,600 people from 45 states and 24 countries; *and*

WHEREAS, This attention would provide the City of Boston an opportunity to highlight its many diverse neighborhoods and support local businesses by hosting extended festivities and celebrations throughout the City; *and*

WHEREAS, Hosting All-Star Games will require equitable contracting and procurement practices to ensure MWBE participation; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston also should explore hosting the regionals of the Women's NCAA Basketball Tournament as it has in the past for the Men's NCAA Basketball Tournament; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston's recent bid for a WNBA team was derailed by several factors, one of which was arena availability in the spring, which would've forced the team to play many games in Providence; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston now has no path to be home to a WNBA team till next decade despite a rabid fanbase of basketball fans that have sold out both Connecticut Sun games in the past two years; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston will not host an MLS team for the foreseeable future; *and*

WHEREAS, Although Boston has been home to incredible on-court, on-field and on-ice success in the first quarter of this century, the city's inability to host signature events either based upon infrastructure gaps or other issues has held our city's economy back; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address improvements needed to bolster the City's application standing and ensure preparations are done equitably, and that representatives from the Boston Celtics; Boston Red Sox; New England Patriots; Public Works; Small Business Development; Tourism, Sports, & Entertainment; Transportation; and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 26, 2026