OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, JOHN FITZGERALD, JULIA MEJIA, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLYNN, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE TRANSITION AND OPERATIONS OF THE NEW CITY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

WHEREAS, On July 1, 2024, the City of Boston officially launched its new Planning Department, restoring planning as a core function of City government for the first time in 70 years; and

WHEREAS, This transition involved integrating the majority of Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA) staff into the new department, aiming to enhance the city's planning capabilities and better serve its residents; and

WHEREAS, Prior to this transition, staff and residents raised various concerns about the structure, transparency, and effectiveness of planning in the city, which underscores the importance of evaluating how the new department is operating; and

WHEREAS, It is essential for the City Council to assess the progress of the new department to ensure it aligns with the city's goals and meets the needs of our communities; and

WHEREAS, Introducing the new Chief of Planning to the City Council and the public will foster transparency, collaboration, and a shared understanding of the department's vision and objectives;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to:

1. Review the transition process from the BPDA to the new Planning Department;
2. Discuss how the concerns raised prior to the transition have been addressed;
3. Evaluate the department's current operations, achievements, and challenges;
4. Discuss the department's strategic plans and initiatives for the future; and
5. Formally introduce the new Chief of Planning to the City Council

Representatives from the Planning Department, including the Director, as well as other relevant stakeholders, shall be invited to attend and provide testimony.

Filed on: January 29, 2025