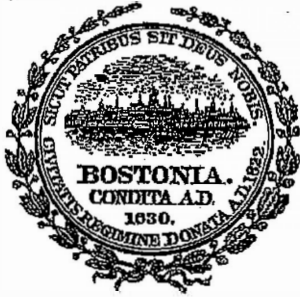


OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, BRIAN WORRELL, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MURPHY, PEPÉN, AND SANTANA



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS CAUSES OF INCREASES IN BOSTON POLICE OVERTIME SPENDING

WHEREAS, The City Council is currently deliberating budgets, weighing difficult choices regarding spending for housing, education, public safety, streets, climate, and other important priorities of Boston residents; *and*

WHEREAS, It is the Council's role to ensure that the City of Boston's budget is balanced and sets out predictable spending to ensure we maintain a AAA bond rating, allowing us to borrow money at lower rates and expand the number of capital projects; *and*

WHEREAS, When city departments spend more than their allotted budget, it drains city reserves, takes away from competing spending priorities, and makes sound budget planning more difficult; *and*

WHEREAS, Through the first three quarters of FY24, the Boston Police Department had spent \$77 million in overtime and was on pace to spend more than \$100 million in overtime, before accounting for the increased presence for the Boston Marathon or the NBA Finals; *and*

WHEREAS, From FY20 to FY24, overtime spending went from 19% to 44% over budget, or from \$14 million in 2020 to \$33 million over budget in FY24; *and*

WHEREAS, Over the past 18 years, the Boston Police Department has overspent its overtime budget by at least 10% every year and has averaged spending 30% above budget during that period; *and*

WHEREAS, Overtime is meant to disincentivize staffing shortages; as officers are forced into longer shifts they are less likely to be effective in their work through no fault of their own; *and*

WHEREAS, Officials from the Police Department spoke during a May hearing that the department has 547 vacancies, including 253 vacant positions for sworn officers, and current three-year trends show the new police academy classes aren't keeping up with attrition as an average of 131 officers are leaving the department each year, and an average of 108 are joining each year; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2015, a BPD audit detailed steps to reduce overtime spending, yet, as of 2020, few of the recommended changes were implemented according to reporting from

The Boston Globe and; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review Police overtime, evaluate reasons for increased overtime spending, and identify new steps that can be taken to address overtime spending; *and*

Due to the urgent need for immediate action as required by City Charter that the Council vote on a budget prior to July 1, 2024, which includes the Boston Police Budget, an emergency hearing order is hereby necessary to expedite the filing and consideration of this order.

Filed on: June 10, 2024