

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, EDWARD M. FLYNN, BENJAMIN J. WEBER, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, AND SANTANA



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE MISSION, GOALS, OBJECTIVES, AND CHALLENGES AT THE OFFICE OF POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY AND TRANSPARENCY (OPAT)

WHEREAS, In December 2020, the City Council passed an ordinance to establish the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency, an office that would have a Civilian Review Board and an Internal Affairs Oversight Panel to oversee complaints made against the Boston Police Department; *and*

WHEREAS, The department has cycled through staff and prior leaders before current Executive Director Evandro Carvalho took the reigns in 2024; *and*

WHEREAS, In a May 2025 hearing, Executive Director Carvalho testified that from 2022 through 2024, there were 378 complaints received, 86 active investigations, 58 cases heard by the CRB, and 34 appeals heard by the IAOP; *and*

WHEREAS, As of May 2025, Boston Police Commissioner Michael Cox had not followed the nine recommendations for discipline issued by OPAT, thus leading some community members to question the department's credibility; *and*

WHEREAS, While the department has quarterly review meetings and holds subpoena power, there is a strong desire to find ways to strengthen its power; *and*

WHEREAS, From 2022 to 2024, 44 percent of people who filed complaints with OPAT were Black and the majority were of those who lodged complaints were Black and/or Latino, thus making this a civil-rights issue; *and*

WHEREAS, The City Council should hold a hearing to work with the community and find ways for the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency to strengthen and re-examine its tools to ensure it lives up to its original goals and priorities. The hearing should also include constructive oversight and dialogue to strengthen accountability, effectiveness, and public confidence in the office's work; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the mission, goals, objectives, and challenges at the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency.

Filed on: February 8, 2026