

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE ESTABLISHING A UNIVERSITY SMALL BUSINESS TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PARTNERSHIP IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, The City of Boston, through its Office of Small Business, provides tools and guidance to support the creation, growth, and sustainability of small businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, The City currently delivers direct technical assistance through Neighborhood Business Managers and a network of approved experts and providers; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is home to a concentration of world-class universities whose business students participate in consulting programs that provide technical assistance to businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, While both City-administered technical assistance programs and university-based student consulting programs exist, there does not appear to be a formal, ongoing City initiative that systematically connects these resources to deliver coordinated technical assistance at scale to Boston small businesses; *and*

WHEREAS, Small businesses in Boston, particularly in neighborhood commercial corridors and sectors such as retail, food service, and personal services, continue to face economic challenges associated with changing commuter patterns and shifts in consumer behavior; *and*

WHEREAS, Other cities have demonstrated models in which local government coordinates technical assistance delivery through external partners, including universities, creating opportunities to expand capacity and improve outcomes for small businesses; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore the feasibility of establishing a University Small Business Technical Assistance Partnership that would integrate business student consulting programs into the City's existing small business support infrastructure, and that the Office of Small Business, representatives of local universities, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: April 29, 2026