



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Government Operations
Gabriela Coletta, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

March 27, 2024

Dear Councilors,

Docket #0399, A petition for a Special Law re: An Age Waiver for Alex Guzman to join the Boston Police Department, was sponsored by Councilors Enrique Pepén and Erin Murphy and was referred to the Committee on February 28, 2024.

Summary of Legislation:

Docket #0399 is a Home Rule Petition that would authorize the City of Boston Police Department to waive the age requirement for original appointment of police officers, for Alex Guzman. Pursuant to Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2007 of the Massachusetts General Laws, the City of Boston Police Department only accepts police officer candidates who have not reached their fortieth birthday as of the date of the exam. Docket #0399 seeks permission from the State Legislature to exempt Alex Guzman from that requirement.

Information Gathered at the Hearing:

The Committee held a hearing on Tuesday, March 26, 2024. The Chair was joined by the sponsors, Councilors Enrique Pepén and Erin Murphy, and received an absence letter from Councilor Tania Fernandes Anderson.

The Committee heard testimony from Alex Guzman, a 43-year-old Hyde Park resident looking to apply for the Boston Police Department. Guzman testified about his personal and professional history as well as his desire to become a police officer. Guzman was born in the Dominican Republic and moved to the United States in 1995 when he was 15 years old. Guzman testified that he always dreamt of becoming a police officer; however, challenging life circumstances intervened and delayed his pursuit of higher education. Despite these obstacles, he eventually attended Bunker Hill Community College and later transferred to UMASS, where he excelled academically, graduating with honors and becoming the first in his family to earn a college degree. Guzman testified that in his professional life, despite being unable to pursue a career in law enforcement he gained 15 years of valuable and rewarding experience serving the public. Guzman testified that following college, he worked for a non-profit in Cambridge for two (2) years before transitioning to the Boston Housing Authority, where he has been employed for the past thirteen (13) years.

Guzman testified that upon learning that a Home Rule Petition could allow him the ability to pursue a career in law enforcement, he jumped at the opportunity to reach out to the City Council for support.

Guzman thanked the Council for their support in petitioning the State Legislature on his behalf and stated that he will be taking the Civil Service exam this March with high hopes for the successful passage of the Home Rule Petition.

Recommended Action:

The Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

Docket #0399, A petition for a Special Law re: An Age Waiver for Alex Guzman to join the Boston Police Department,

submits a report recommending that this docket **ought to pass**.



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