



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Order for a Hearing to Review the Management and Oversight of Boston Main Streets Programs and the Preliminary Findings of the Wolf & Company Audit

WHEREAS, Boston's Main Streets programs were created to support neighborhood commercial districts through revitalization, small business assistance, and community engagement, with millions in city and federal funding distributed annually; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Finance Commission has uncovered alleged financial irregularities at Three Squares Main Streets in Jamaica Plain, including forged bank statement transactions and the potential misuse of nearly \$150,000 in federal grants; *and*

WHEREAS, The discrepancies were flagged by a city employee who demonstrated accountability and civic responsibility in reporting suspicious financial activity; *and*

WHEREAS, In response, the administration has contracted Wolf & Company, a national CPA and consulting firm, to conduct a wide-ranging audit of up to 20 Main Streets organizations across the city, with a three-year agreement capped at \$150,000; *and*

WHEREAS, While the issues appear to be isolated to Three Squares Main Streets, the findings raise broader concerns about financial oversight, internal controls, and transparency in the administration of city-supported nonprofit programs; *and*

WHEREAS, Dozens of other Main Streets organizations across Boston continue to operate with integrity, providing valuable services and support to small businesses and commercial corridors; *and*

WHEREAS, It is the duty of the City Council to ensure that all public funds are used for their intended purposes, and that the community trust in city-supported nonprofit partnerships is upheld through proper stewardship and accountability; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to review the structure, oversight, and financial management practices of the Boston Main Streets programs; **BE IT FURTHER**

ORDERED: That representatives from the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, the Boston Finance Commission, Wolf & Company, and relevant Main Streets organizations, including Three Squares Main Streets, be invited to testify; **BE IT FURTHER**

ORDERED: That the Council seek to understand both systemic and specific failures, consider reforms to improve transparency and oversight, and restore public confidence in these vital neighborhood economic development programs.