

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BENJAMIN J. WEBER, ENRIQUE PEPÉN, BREADON,
COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, SANTANA AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PROTECTIONS FOR WORKERS DURING EXTREME HEAT

- WHEREAS,** Global warming is contributing to extreme weather conditions, including record-breaking heat waves which have been known to be deadly; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston recently had a heat emergency, setting a record for the hottest day in June at 98 degrees Fahrenheit; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Currently there are no protections in Boston for employees who have to work during heat emergencies, leaving them vulnerable to unbearable and dangerous weather conditions that can negatively impact their health; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Workers are left to rely on their employers to allow for water breaks and other accommodations during extreme heat. Often those without a union are unable to advocate for or take advantage of these accommodations; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Texas and Florida, despite their extreme heat waves, have gone so far as to pass laws banning municipalities and counties within their borders from requiring employers to provide water breaks to workers in extreme heat. It is, therefore, imperative that we as a city set an example by ensuring that our workers are entitled to accommodations during heat emergencies, like the one we experienced in Boston last week; *and*
- WHEREAS,** It is projected that heat index values over 100 degrees will be three times more common in the Northeast by the middle of this century; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Although we are making strides to become a Green New Deal city and reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the state level it is projected that these types of heat emergencies will continue and will only get worse as time goes on; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss ways to protect workers during extreme heat emergencies and that members of the Mayor’s health and labor teams and worker’s rights groups be in attendance at the hearing.

Filed on: June 26, 2024