

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE THE CITY OF BOSTON'S ROLE IN REGULATING DRIVERLESS VEHICLES

WHEREAS, Autonomous or driverless vehicle technology is being deployed and tested in an increasing number of cities across the United States, raising significant questions regarding public safety, transportation policy, municipal oversight, and workforce impacts; *and*

WHEREAS, Several incidents involving autonomous vehicles have occurred in recent years, including pedestrian injuries, traffic collisions, and documented challenges involving interactions between driverless vehicles and emergency responders, prompting investigations by federal and state regulators; *and*

WHEREAS, In March 2018, an Uber autonomous vehicle operating in self-driving mode struck and killed a pedestrian in Tempe, Arizona, marking one of the first widely documented fatalities involving a self-driving vehicle and raising significant concerns regarding the safety of autonomous vehicle technology; *and*

WHEREAS, In May 2026 in Dallas, Texas, a driverless vehicle interfered with emergency response operations following a deadly explosion and fire, requiring first responders to take additional actions to access the scene and raising concerns about how autonomous vehicles may operate during emergency situations; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston's transportation network is among the most complex in the nation, consisting of dense pedestrian activity, public transit operations, cyclists, delivery vehicles, rideshare services, emergency response vehicles, construction activity, and historic roadway infrastructure that may present unique challenges for autonomous vehicle technologies; *and*

WHEREAS, The introduction of driverless vehicles has significant implications for public safety, traffic management, municipal regulation, labor, and workers whose livelihoods depend upon driving occupations, including taxi drivers, rideshare drivers, delivery drivers, and other transportation workers; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council seeks to better understand the legal authority of the City of Boston regarding the deployment, regulation, oversight, and operation of driverless vehicles within Boston; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the City of Boston's role in regulating driverless vehicles, including the City's legal authority, public safety considerations, emergency response protocols, infrastructure readiness, workforce impacts, and potential policy options available to the City; and that representatives from the Boston Transportation Department, the Boston Police Department, the Boston Fire Department, Boston Emergency Medical Services and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: June 8, 2026