

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN J. MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE PROMPT SCHEDULING OF A SPECIAL ELECTION TO FILL THE VACANCY IN DISTRICT 7

WHEREAS, Councilor Fernandes Anderson has pleaded guilty to federal charges of wire fraud and theft concerning a program receiving federal funds and has publicly announced her intention to resign from her position as the District 7 representative on the Boston City Council; and

WHEREAS, The residents of District 7 deserve timely and effective representation to address their needs and concerns without undue delay; and

WHEREAS, According to the Acts of 1948, c. 452, s. 15 as amended by the Acts of 1952, c. 190 as amended by the Acts of 1993, c. 233, s. 1.15A, if a vacancy occurs in the office of district city Councilor more than 180 days prior to a regular municipal election, the city clerk shall forthwith notify the city council thereof; and at the first city council meeting after the notice has been read, the city council shall forthwith adopt an order calling a special preliminary election for the purpose of nominating a district city Councilor for the unexpired term, which election shall be held on a Tuesday, not less than 62 nor more than 76 days after the adoption of such order, as the city council shall in such order fix. The 2 candidates for district city Councilor receiving the greatest number of votes at the special preliminary election shall be deemed nominated and their names shall be placed on the ballot for the special municipal election, which election shall be held 28 days following the special preliminary election; and

WHEREAS, While there will be an interim period before a special election can be conducted, it is imperative to minimize this duration to ensure that the constituents of District 7 are not left without representation longer than necessary; and

WHEREAS, Councilor Fernandes Anderson's guilty plea is pending formal acceptance by the court during a Rule 11 hearing, which will determine the voluntariness and factual basis of the plea, and upon acceptance, her resignation will create an official vacancy in District 7; and

WHEREAS, Holding two elections within a single year is not unprecedented and is justified to maintain the integrity of democratic representation; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Boston City Council acknowledges Councilor Fernandes Anderson's guilty plea and her stated intention to resign, affirms its commitment to ensuring that the residents of District 7 have timely and effective representation, calls upon its members to set a definitive date for the special election in accordance with legal requirements, demonstrating dedication to prompt and effective governance, and encourages all eligible residents of District 7 to participate actively in the forthcoming special election to ensure their voices are heard and represented.

Filed on: April 16, 2025