

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA,
FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, SANTANA,
WEBER AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

HOME RULE PETITION

WHEREAS, Gissell Melo, a 42-year-old longtime Bostonian and combat veteran of the United States Army, has dreamed of becoming a Boston Police Officer to work with other like-minded individuals to keep her communities safe and secure; *and*

WHEREAS, A magna cum laude graduate of the University of Massachusetts Boston with fluency in both Spanish and English, and a strong belief in the power of community policing, Gissell Melo's background prepares her with the skills to serve such a diverse city while ensuring her communities feel understood and included; *and*

WHEREAS, Having served in the Army as a combat veteran for nine years, Gissell Melo possesses particularly beneficial training, skills, and resilience to equip her well as a police officer; *and*

WHEREAS, Gissell Melo has made several attempts since her 20s to become a police officer but had to resign from the process during one attempt when she learned she was pregnant and, upon her last successful attempt at joining the Academy, sustained an injury forcing her to resign until healed; *and*

WHEREAS, Gissell Melo's determination and perseverance to become a Boston Police Officer never wavered despite any setbacks she might have faced; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston has an age limit of 40-years-old for new officers, but the force is currently below minimum staffing requirements and in need of officers;
NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

**PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: AN ACT DIRECTING THE CITY OF BOSTON
POLICE DEPARTMENT TO WAIVE THE MAXIMUM AGE REQUIREMENT FOR
POLICE OFFICERS FOR GISSELL MELO**

SECTION 1. Notwithstanding any general or special law to the contrary, including the provisions of Chapter 43 of the Acts of 2007, the City of Boston Police Department shall waive the maximum age requirement for original appointment of police officers for Gissell Melo. If Gissell Melo meets all other requirements set forth by the Boston Police Department, she shall be eligible to have her name certified for original appointment to the position of police officer.

SECTION 2.

This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Filed in Council: March 3, 2025