



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Statement Clarifying Request for Independent Performance Audit of City Operations

Councilor Ed Flynn and I recently filed a resolution calling for an independent performance audit of City of Boston operations.

While that resolution was debated and ultimately did not pass, it is important to be clear about what was requested and what currently exists.

During the discussion, it was suggested that the City already conducts this type of review through its existing audit processes.

That is not accurate.

The City of Boston conducts annual financial audits, including the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report (ACFR), as well as external independent financial reviews. These audits are important and serve a necessary purpose. They focus on financial reporting, confirm revenues and expenditures, and ensure compliance with accepted accounting standards.

However, these audits are limited in scope.

They do not evaluate how City departments are operating.

They do not assess whether staffing levels are appropriate.

They do not examine whether services are being delivered efficiently or effectively.

And they do not provide a comprehensive, independent, citywide review of overall operations.

While there are also internal oversight functions within City government, none of these constitute a broad, independent performance audit of City operations.

That is what we called for.

A performance audit is fundamentally different. It is designed to take a deeper, independent look at how government is functioning, how decisions are made, how resources are allocated, and whether systems are working as intended.

That level of review is not currently conducted across City operations.

This is not duplicative. It fills a gap in oversight.

At a time when the City is facing real financial pressure and making decisions that impact services and staffing, this is exactly the kind of review that should be undertaken.

This is about accountability.

This is about transparency.

And this is about doing our job as fiscal stewards for the people of Boston.

Sincerely,

Erin J. Murphy
Boston City Councilor, At-Large

Ed Flynn
Boston City Councilor, District 2