

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, ARROYO, BAKER, BOK, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, ERNANDES ANDERSON, LARA, MEJIA, MURPHY AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW CITY OF BOSTON CODE 12-16 SAFE SHARPS DISPOSAL PROGRAM.

- WHEREAS,** In early 2020 the Boston City Council and Mayor of Boston signed in to ordinance the Safe Sharps Disposal program; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The purpose of the ordinance is to provide for the safe and orderly collection and disposal of sharps by requiring retailers of sharps to take them back at no additional cost to the consumer, providing a more convenient way to return them; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The ordinance was a response to cleaning up used hypodermic needles that continue to litter Boston's streets, parks, school yards, and sidewalks, by requiring pharmacies that sell the syringes to provide a way to safely dispose of them; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The program was intended to create approximately over 100 collection sites across Boston, as an alternative location to discarding on the ground or in household trash, as prohibited by state law; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The ordinance states that every pharmacy, with more than three locations, that sells needles in Boston is to provide collection kiosks for returning sharps, and must be free of charge, or may present a different collection plan for review and approval by the Boston Public Health; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Pharmacies must also provide the city data on the sharps collected on a yearly basis, and ISD has the power to enforce the ordinance; *and*
- WHEREAS,** It is unclear how many collection sites in the city exist, if the ordinance is currently being enforced, pharmacies are providing data, and if the BPHC has approved any alternative collection plans; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review CBC 12-16 Safe Sharps Disposal Program and that individuals and organizations including the Office of Recovery Services, Inspections Services Department, EMS, health centers and other non-profit health care service providers be invited to testify.

Filed in council: September 21, 2022