

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Ed Flynn, Arroyo, Breadon, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Flaherty, Lara, Louijeune and Murphy



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCESSIBILITY OF LANGUAGE ACCESS SERVICES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** In August of 2021, the Boston City Council passed An Ordinance Amending City of Boston Code, Ordinances, Chapter VI, Section 6-10, Language and Communications Access for City Services which made substantial changes to the city's language access policies; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The ordinance established an Office of Language and Communications Access, creating new rules regarding the timeline of information disbursement in addition to changing what languages are required for translation in neighborhoods and across the city and had an implementation timeline of 12 months after passage; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Since the ordinance was passed, new budgetary priorities have been introduced that change the scope of work for the Office of Language and Communications Access; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The FY23 budget invests in seven new positions, including in-house translators and LCA specialists to better support departments; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The hiring and employment standards for interpreters in different official capacities can vary depending on their role, with court interpreters requiring a college degree, a completed legal interpreter training program, and passing a court interpreter certification exam; *and*
- WHEREAS,** It is important for the Council to be updated on the implementation of the ordinance and to learn more about the hiring practices and standards for these new in-house translators as well as the selection process and quality control measures currently used for contracting out interpretation and translation services; *and*

WHEREAS, The Council passes ordinances that change the operations of the city's government and it is important that this body provide oversight over the laws and rules it promulgates; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing on the accountability and accessibility of language access services. Representatives from the City of Boston, including the Office of Language and Communications Access, in addition to individuals with professional experience as interpreters/translators, as well as community advocates are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: January 25, 2023