OFFERED BY CITY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, ARROYO, BREADON, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, LARA, DURKAN, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON WAYS TO INCREASE TRASH PICKUP FOR LARGE BUILDINGS

WHEREAS: Landlords are required to provide sanitary conditions for their tenants, including the maintenance of collection bins or dumpsters at least once a week regardless of the number of units they service; *and*

WHEREAS: It is cheaper for landlords to pay the fines for overflowing dumpsters than to increase the number of pickups per week. The fines currently in place do not provide any incentive to comply with the municipal code; *and*

WHEREAS: Everyone deserves to live in a dignity-affirming neighborhood. This becomes impossible when basic services like trash maintenance are neglected; *and*

WHEREAS: Black and Brown communities, as well as low-income populations, are disproportionately affected by issues of inconsistent refuse collection; *and*

WHEREAS: Privatization and/or requiring pickups twice in one week for large apartment buildings can help ensure trash does not overflow and can help prevent absentee landlords from neglecting their property; *and*

WHEREAS: Increased pickups will help alleviate rodent infestations across our city, an inevitable byproduct of poorly-maintained dumpsters; *and*

WHEREAS: Other large cities have required large buildings to be responsible for their own trash pick-up. A similar requirement in the City of Boston would allow for smaller buildings and homes to have better service from the City; *and*

WHEREAS: Newer Boston Housing Authority properties that are serviced by private companies have their refuse collected twice a week and their dumpsters are more regularly cleaned and maintained; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss twice a week pickups and/or privatization of refuse collection for large buildings to ensure clean and safe housing for the residents of Boston, and that the Department of Public Works, Inspectional Services Department, the Office of Neighborhood Services, and the Boston Housing Authority be invited to testify.

Filed on: August 25, 2023