BOSTON CITY COUNCIL
WAYS & MEANS COMMITTEE

June 30, 2025

Mayor Michelle Wu
1 City Hall Sq.
Boston, MA 02201

To Mayor Wu:

I'm writing to you in the wake of the amended tax order and appropriation that the City Council unanimously approved on June 4, 2025. I was pleased to see you accept the amended tax order, and I hope the process that the Council established this year, beginning the budget process months earlier than usual and advocating for specific issues to be included in the initial budget, can be a blueprint for future budget cycles. As we look to the beginning of Fiscal Year 2026 on July 1, 2026, I'd like to recommend a few operational budget changes for the sake of increased efficiency and transparency.

Request For Proposal Guidelines: I recommend that all RFPs for grants are created and released by the end of the first quarter of the fiscal year (Sept. 30, 2025), and that the winner is selected by the end of the second quarter of the fiscal year (Dec. 31, 2025). A clear guideline will allow for earlier evaluation as to whether a grant program is working as intended, and whether the grant program should be renewed for another fiscal year. The RFPs related to Council amendments could include an external housing tester program, college and career readiness grants, firefighter cancer screening, ESOL parent classes, and MOIA legal services.

Additionally, during our budget hearings, we heard from the Equity Cabinet that they're not currently involved in the City RFP selection process, and we heard a willingness from several City departments to include an Equity representative on their selection committee. I urge the administration to include a member of the Equity Cabinet in RFP processes moving forward.

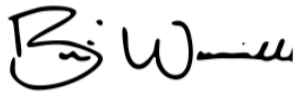
Council Amendments: An update on the Council's budget amendments is recommended to be filed by Dec. 31, 2025, and I urge the administration and all City departments to work with the Council starting in July to implement the amendments advocated for by each councilor.

Capital Budget: I expect to work in greater collaboration with the Office of Budget Management to improve transparency around capital projects, loan orders, and the five-year capital plan. Building off the work discussed last year at the hearing on Docket #1131 and with an upcoming hearing or working session on Docket #0553 (Order for a Hearing to Review Capital Planning, Budgeting, and Project Management Practices in the Capital Program of the

City of Boston), I hope to issue recommendations that will help lift the City's capital budget presentation to the same standards as the City's operating budget, which has received national accolades.

Building off the work we have already done together for the FY26 budget, I hope that further collaboration with the administration can establish new guidelines around these budgetary procedures.

Sincerely,



Brian Worrell
City Councilor, District 4
Chair of Committee on Ways & Means