



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN INDEPENDENT
PERFORMANCE AUDIT OF THE CITY OF BOSTON'S
OPERATIONS AND FISCAL MANAGEMENT**

WHEREAS, recent communications from the City of Boston's Chief Financial Officer and Audit Committee have identified emerging and significant fiscal concerns; and

WHEREAS, the City of Boston is currently projecting a Fiscal Year 2026 year-end budget deficit of approximately \$48.4 million, reflecting growing financial pressure within the current fiscal year; and

WHEREAS, this projected deficit is driven in part by substantial negative variances in key accounts, including approximately \$47.1 million in snow and winter management, \$48.7 million in public safety expenditures, and \$4.3 million in execution of courts, partially offset by a projected \$13.0 million revenue surplus; and

WHEREAS, the City's Audit Committee has further warned of structural financial pressures, including weakening commercial property values, a slowdown in new development, and health insurance costs exceeding budget projections by an estimated \$15 to \$20 million; and

WHEREAS, recent actions taken by the administration, including increased spending controls, delayed hiring, and restrictions on departmental expenditures, indicate that fiscal pressures are already impacting City operations; and

WHEREAS, these developments were not fully and proactively communicated to the Boston City Council or the public in a timely manner, raising concerns regarding transparency, oversight, and fiscal planning; and

WHEREAS, ensuring fiscal responsibility is essential to protecting core City services, preserving jobs, and preventing additional financial burdens on Boston residents; and

WHEREAS, Boston residents continue to face a high cost of living and should not be expected to pay more while receiving fewer services due to inefficiencies or lack of oversight; and

WHEREAS, an independent performance audit would provide a comprehensive review of City spending patterns, staffing levels, procurement practices, operational efficiency, and the alignment of resources with the needs of Boston residents;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council calls for a comprehensive, independent performance audit of the City of Boston's operations, fiscal management, and expenditure practices; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That such audit shall examine departmental spending, staffing levels and growth, overtime and personnel costs, procurement and contracting practices, and the effectiveness and efficiency of service delivery; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the findings of this audit be made publicly available to ensure full transparency, accountability, and informed decision-making for the residents of the City of Boston.