OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, AND WEBER

CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE BOSTON FINANCE COMMISSION'S BUDGET SAVINGS AND REVENUE REPORT

WHEREAS, Boston Finance Commission has operated for more than a century, providing independent oversight into city government; *and*

WHEREAS, The Commission submitted a report on June 10 that highlights a number of fiscal realities for Boston and provides cost-saving strategies for the City of Boston to consider during this forecasted era of slow new growth; *and*

WHEREAS, The Commission cited the ability to spur new growth, especially in downtown Boston, as vital for the city to maximize revenue; *and*

WHEREAS, The report highlighted three areas to explore for potential savings, including: streamlining all contracts through Procurement to avoid duplicates; an independent audit of each city department every 5-7 years to ensure performance, impact and practices are aligned with the best result and if any departments or positions would best be consolidated; and Boston Public Schools' building closures amid declining enrollment; *and*

WHEREAS, Also in the report were a list of city-owned properties to sell and develop, including 43 Hawkins St. and numerous former city schools; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Finance Commission cited overtime spending, which was $183 million in FY25, as a recurring problem for the City of Boston, highlighting the Police Department's $101 million overtime costs in FY25 as a concern and an area where an independent audit could yield fruitful solutions; *and*

WHEREAS, The Commission's report highlighted departmental underspending as a practice that should be addressed during each budget cycle, including a deeper examination of underspent contracts; *and*

WHEREAS, Lease-purchase agreements also drew scrutiny compared to directly purchasing items, with an independent audit called for to examine the cost-benefit analysis of that practice; *and*

WHEREAS, State aid was identified as a revenue category that should also be higher, which is consistent with data that shows the state went from giving 2.2% of its total budget in 2008 to Boston in local aid to just 0.9% of its total state budget in local aid in

2025, meaning Boston would have $685 million more in local aid if it kept up its 2008 share of the state budget; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Finance Commission's report must be examined fully, including its push for performance audits, cost-saving strategies, and tools for revenue generation; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the Post-Audit Committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore the Boston Finance Commission's recommendations, and representatives from the Finance Department; Procurement Department; Police Department; Boston Public Schools; and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: June 18, 2026