**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN J. MURPHY, MINIARD CULPEPPER, EDWARD M. FLYNN, FITZGERALD, AND WORRELL**

# CITY OF BOSTON
# IN CITY COUNCIL

## ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS UNAUTHORIZED ROADWAY ALTERATIONS AND TRAFFIC SAFETY AT TREMONT STREET AND PARKER STREET

**WHEREAS,** The intersection of Tremont Street and Parker Street has long presented serious safety concerns for bicyclists, pedestrians, scooter riders, motorists, and nearby residents; and

**WHEREAS,** On July 9, 2026, a bicyclist was struck and killed near this intersection, underscoring the urgent need for professionally designed and implemented safety improvements; and

**WHEREAS**, On or around August 30, unauthorized markings were placed on the roadway by private individuals in an apparent attempt to create a new traffic and bicycle-lane configuration; and

**WHEREAS,** Changes to travel lanes, bicycle lanes, turning patterns, crosswalks, or other traffic controls must be evaluated and implemented by qualified City transportation officials and engineers, not independently created by residents or advocacy groups; and

**WHEREAS,** City officials were notified about the unauthorized markings, yet residents report that they remained in place and were later reinforced or expanded; and

**WHEREAS,** On September 16, 2026, another serious collision occurred near the same site when a person riding a scooter was struck by a vehicle and transported to a hospital; and

**WHEREAS,** Although the cause remains under investigation, this latest collision raises urgent questions about whether the traffic patterns created by the unauthorized markings caused confusion or contributed to the collision; and

**WHEREAS,** The City must address unauthorized alterations to public roadways immediately while also recognizing and responding to the serious, longstanding safety challenges at this intersection; and

**WHEREAS,** Supporting safer bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure does not mean allowing private individuals to redesign public streets without engineering review, authorization, public notice, or community input; and

**WHEREAS,** Residents deserve to know when the City first became aware of these markings, which departments were notified, why the markings were not immediately evaluated or removed, and what enforcement options are available against individuals who alter public roadways without authorization; and

**WHEREAS,** It is an emergency that the City establish a clear and consistent policy for identifying, investigating, and promptly responding to unauthorized roadway markings or traffic-control changes in order to prevent public confusion and reduce the risk of additional safety hazards; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the unauthorized alteration of the roadway at Tremont Street and Parker Street, the City's response after being notified, whether the altered traffic patterns contributed to the September 16 collision, and the immediate and long-term measures necessary to improve safety at this intersection. Representatives from the Boston Transportation Department, Streets Cabinet, Public Works Department, Boston Police Department, Boston EMS, Law Department, Office of Neighborhood Services, neighborhood residents, and transportation-safety stakeholders shall be invited to testify.

Filed on: September 23, 2026