

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA, ARROYO, BOK, BREADON, COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE RISE IN PUBLIC CONSUMER ENERGY COSTS

**WHEREAS**, Electric and gas prices have significantly increased this winter in the City of Boston, with National Grid estimating costs to power bills rising nearly 60% in the last year; **and**

**WHEREAS**, According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, as of October 2022, the 29.1 cents per kWh that Boston households paid for electricity in October 2022 was 75.3% higher than the nationwide average cost of 16.6 cents per kWh; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Boston area electricity costs have exceeded the national average by at least 48.9% over the past five Octobers; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Near the end of 2022, Eversource announced that new rates would be in effect for the first six months of 2023, increasing the average customer's bill by 23%; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Eversource recently increased its Basic Service rates to 25.649 cents/kWh for residential customers, a 63 percent increase from their winter 2022 rate; **and**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Boston has a Boston Community Choice Electricity (BCCE) program that gives residents three cost saving options; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Through the BCCE program, the most expensive option of 100% renewable electricity is only 13.987 cents/kWh with rates locked in through December 2023; **and**

**WHEREAS**, Rising energy costs place additional economic barriers on low-income and middle class residents in Boston, recently determined the second most expensive City to be a renter in the entire United States; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the City of Boston's efforts to sign residents up for Boston's BCCE program, MASS Saves and other energy cost-saving programs. Representatives from the Boston Community Choice Electricity Program, Mass Saves, Environment Energy and Open Space Cabinet, and Senior Saves Program, advocates and community members are invited to provide testimony

Filed on: February 1, 2023