

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN, ARROYO, BAKER, BREADON,
COLETTA, FLAHERTY, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLNESS RESOURCES AVAILABLE TO CITY OF BOSTON EMPLOYEES DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND BEYOND

WHEREAS, The loss of life and mandated social distancing within the first year of the COVID-19 pandemic increased global rates of depression and anxiety by 25% according to the World Health Organization; *and*

WHEREAS, The impacts of this collective experience and ensuing mental health crisis directly impacts City of Boston employees; *and*

WHEREAS, 81% of participants in the American Psychological Association's 2022 Work and Well-being Survey prioritized workplaces that promote a healthy work-life balance and mental health supports when evaluating potential employers; *and*

WHEREAS, Public Safety personnel in every Massachusetts City and Town have access to a support network of critical incident stress management and crisis intervention services, one of which includes the Commonwealth 911 Peer Support Team; *and*

WHEREAS, During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic from March 2020 to March 2021, the Commonwealth 911 Peer Support Team received approximately 1,000 points of contact, while over a pre-COVID period between July 2018 to March 2020, the Peer Support Team received approximately 500 points of contact; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston's Human Resource Department's Employee Assistance Program addresses the well-being of its workforce by promoting, establishing, and increasing quality of life, good health, and personal experiences for City employees; *and*

WHEREAS, It is a practical and moral imperative for the Boston City Council to investigate and address the mental health challenges and detriments to recovery in the workplaces within their purview; *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council convene a hearing to review the mental health resources available to City of Boston workers and the quality of care received during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, and that the representatives of the Boston Public Health Commission, the City of Boston's Human Resources Department, Boston's Employee Assistance Program, the Boston First Responders Peer Support Network, SEIU 888, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: September 11, 2023