

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**



**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE IMMEDIATE
REINSTATEMENT OF AND SUSTAINABLE FUNDING FOR THE
COMMUNITY SYRINGE REDEMPTION PROGRAM.**

WHEREAS, The Community Syringe Redemption Program (CSRP), initiated in December 2020, has been instrumental in enhancing public health and safety in Boston by collecting approximately 5 million syringes since its inception; and

WHEREAS, The CSRP was funded through federal pandemic recovery funds, which concluded in June 2024, leading to the program's cessation; and

WHEREAS, The termination of the CSRP has resulted in a noticeable increase in improperly discarded syringes across the city, posing significant health risks to residents and visitors; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Health Commission continues to operate other syringe collection initiatives, but the unique and effective approach of the CSRP—offering incentives for syringe returns—has proven exceptionally successful in mitigating needle litter; and

WHEREAS, Community organizations, such as the Newmarket Business Improvement District, have commendably stepped in to address the gap left by the CSRP's conclusion, yet the scale of the issue necessitates reinstating the CSRP to its full capacity; and

WHEREAS, The health and safety of Boston's communities are of paramount concern, and proactive measures are essential to address the challenges posed by improperly discarded syringes;

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the immediate reinstatement and sustainable funding of the Community Syringe Redemption Program.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, That representatives from the Boston Public Health Commission, the Mayor's Office, community organizations involved in syringe collection efforts, and other relevant stakeholders be invited to participate in this hearing to provide insights and recommendations.

Filed on the 5th day of February, 2025.