

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, ED FLYNN, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, PEPEN, SANTANA, WEBER, LOUIJEUNE AND BREADON

**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**



**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PUBLIC SAFETY AND POLICE STAFFING IN BOSTON.**

**WHEREAS**, The Boston Police Department plays a critical role in ensuring public safety, maintaining order, and protecting residents and visitors during large-scale events across the city; and

**WHEREAS**, Current data indicates that the Boston Police Department is down 135 officers compared to the previous year, despite ongoing recruitment efforts and the current police academy class in training; and

**WHEREAS**, This staffing shortage presents challenges for public safety planning and execution, particularly for large events such as the Evacuation Day Parade in March, which historically draws upwards of one million attendees; and

**WHEREAS**, Due to these staffing constraints, BPD has increasingly relied on the Massachusetts State Police and law enforcement agencies from surrounding towns to supplement personnel for major events, raising concerns about the financial and logistical implications for the City of Boston; and

**WHEREAS**, There is a need for greater transparency and accountability regarding the costs incurred by Boston when requesting additional personnel from outside agencies, as well as the long-term impact of continued staffing shortages on the effectiveness of public safety planning; and

**WHEREAS**, Ensuring that Boston has a fully staffed and well-supported police force is critical to the safety of all residents, event attendees, and officers themselves;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED**, That the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to examine the current staffing levels of the Boston Police Department, the impact on public safety, and the city's reliance on external law enforcement agencies; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, That the hearing will seek to:

- Provide an overview of current BPD staffing levels, including vacancy rates, recruitment efforts, and retention challenges;
- Assess the implications of staffing shortages on public safety response times, crime prevention, and large event security;
- Examine the financial costs and operational impacts of relying on State Police and regional law enforcement agencies for staffing large events in Boston;
- Explore potential solutions to address staffing shortfalls, including increased recruitment incentives, officer retention programs, and other strategies to enhance public safety; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED**, That representatives from the Mayor's Office, Boston Police Department and other relevant stakeholders be invited to testify at the hearing.

Filed on this 5 day of February, 2025.