



City of Boston, Massachusetts
Office of the Mayor
Michelle Wu

April 1st, 2025

Dear Councilors,

Thank you for your letter regarding the FY26 budget. We have been grateful to Ways and Means Committee Chair Worrell for his leadership in convening hearings prior to our budget filing this year and to all colleagues for joining and sharing the feedback you are hearing from our residents. These proactive and collaborative improvements to the budget process enable our administration to better incorporate your work and our shared priorities in the recommended budget that we will submit to the Council next week.

At a time when cities around the country are facing severe financial pressures, Boston is building on a solid financial foundation from consistent fiscal responsibility and taking steps to weather the economic uncertainty ahead. We join the Council in carefully monitoring the wide-ranging and rapidly evolving federal policy landscape and national economic outlook. With over \$300 million of federal funds supporting critical city services each year, and with likely impacts from federal tariffs and other policy changes to the broader economy, we must exercise caution to ensure stability for our communities—preparing for worst case scenarios while refraining from preemptive disruption of city services.

Therefore as we incorporate the Council's feedback and priorities, this year's budget must reflect fiscal discipline to protect Boston's community and economy in the face of federal uncertainty. The FY26 budget will focus on protecting critical city services our residents and businesses depend on and meeting our long-term financial obligations. City departmental budgets for FY26 will reflect eliminating long-term vacancies to constrain growth, with no new City positions; targeted reductions in non-personnel items; and limited new resources to support critical services.

We thank you for the clear focus on shared priorities to support housing and economic development, keep our residents safe, and support City services. We look forward to the upcoming review process and working collaboratively to finalize a budget that reflects the needs of our residents and ensures the continued financial stability of our City.

Sincerely,

Michelle Wu
Mayor of Boston