

**OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY**



## **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

### **ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ASSESS THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE PROPOSED WHITE STADIUM REDEVELOPMENT ON FRANKLIN PARK.**

**WHEREAS**, Franklin Park, a central component of Boston's Emerald Necklace designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, serves as a vital green space offering environmental, recreational, and cultural benefits to the community; and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Boston has initiated plans to renovate White Stadium within Franklin Park through a public-private partnership, aiming to provide enhanced athletic facilities for Boston Public Schools and a professional women's soccer team; and

**WHEREAS**, Concerns have been raised by community members, environmental advocates, and many City Council members regarding the potential environmental impacts of the proposed redevelopment, including:

- The removal of approximately 145 trees surrounding the stadium, which may affect the park's tree canopy and ecological balance;
- The introduction of expanded infrastructure, increased paving, and new parking facilities, which could disrupt natural habitats and alter the landscape's character;
- Potential effects on local wildlife, soil composition, water drainage, and overall environmental health of the park; and

**WHEREAS**, The Environment, Energy, and Open Space Cabinet (EEOS), led by Chief Climate Officer Brian, is responsible for advancing Boston's commitment to sustainability, resilience, and environmental justice. As part of this role, Brian is charged with spearheading the Mayor's climate action agenda throughout the City, making it essential for EEOS to provide input on the environmental impact of the White Stadium project;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED**, That the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to:

1. Evaluate the Environmental Impact:
  - Assess the potential environmental effects of the proposed White Stadium redevelopment, including tree removal, habitat disruption, and changes to the park's landscape.
2. Review Mitigation Strategies:
  - Examine the City's plans for mitigating environmental impacts, such as the proposed tree replanting initiative, and evaluate their adequacy and feasibility.

3. Consider Alternative Approaches:
  - Explore alternative development strategies that minimize environmental harm while achieving the project's objectives.
4. Ensure Community Engagement:
  - Provide a platform for residents, environmental advocates, and experts to voice their concerns and recommendations.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,** That representatives from the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, the Environment, Energy, and Open Space Cabinet (EEOS), the Chief Climate Officer, and other relevant stakeholders be invited to testify at the hearing to provide a comprehensive assessment of the environmental and historical impact of this redevelopment.

Filed on the 5th day of February, 2025.