



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### Hearing Order to Discuss and Establish Guidelines for the Filing and Adoption of Council Resolutions

**WHEREAS**, Recent Council sessions have highlighted the need for clarity regarding the scope and content of resolutions, particularly concerning matters beyond the Council's legislative authority; and

**WHEREAS**, Instances such as debates over resolutions related to municipal employee demotions, contracts, and labor policies have led to concerns about overstepping our legislative boundaries; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolutions addressing paid sick leave policies for city employees have raised questions about the extent of our legislative authority in personnel matters; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolutions recognizing cultural observances, such as Dominican Heritage Month and Women's History Month, have fostered community pride and unity. Discussions about raising flags over City Hall Plaza to honor cultural heritage, like the Italian flag, present opportunities to celebrate our city's diversity while remaining within our purview;

### **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:**

1. **Review of Current Practices:** Analyze recent resolutions to identify patterns where Council actions may have exceeded our jurisdiction.
2. **Establishment of Clear Guidelines:** Develop criteria for future resolutions, focusing on city-specific matters and avoiding entanglement in federal or international issues that fall outside our legislative scope.
3. **Promotion of Consensus:** Create a framework that encourages broad support for resolutions, minimizing instances where members feel compelled to abstain from voting due to jurisdictional concerns.

**BE IT FURTHER ORDERED:** The Committee shall solicit input from Council members to inform the development of these guidelines. The Committee shall report its findings and recommendations to the full Council, ensuring that our resolutions align with the Council's mission and respect the limits of our authority.

**Filed on the 5th day of March, 2025**