



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE CITY OF BOSTON PURCHASING SNOW MELTERS & PERTINENT EQUIPMENT

WHEREAS: Every year, Boston experiences significant snowfall. Most recently, the city got 23.2 inches of snow from a two day snowstorm on January 25-26th, 2026. Residents continue to provide feedback on difficulties navigating streets and sidewalks, limiting accessibility for all - including our seniors, persons with disabilities, and young families with strollers. Residents have also noted the impact of the significant storm and restricted access to fire hydrants and catch basins. Neighbors also noted the difficulties of road accessibility of first responders, the inability of neighbors and families to return to park cars on snow emergency routes following removal of the parking ban, and the difficulties of residents to utilize MBTA bus stops; *and*

WHEREAS: Similarly, in 2015, Boston experienced significant snow fall, with 24.6 inches from January 26-27th, 2015, 16.2 inches on February 2nd, 2015, and 23.8 inches from February 7-9th, 2015. At that time, the City utilized “snow farms” - dedicated, large scale sites where a significant amount of snow is transported after being collected from plowed streets and sidewalks; *and*

WHEREAS: After this most recent storm, New York City deployed eight snow melters to remove snow from streets, sidewalks, and bus stops that would otherwise take weeks to melt. Reports indicated that New York City has used these melting hot tubs for nearly 20 years. Snow is dumped in a basin of hot water, and then dumped into a sewer, with the permission of the Department of Environmental Protection. Reports indicate that these machines melt 60-120 tons of snow per hour; *and*

WHEREAS: With significant snowfall an inevitability in Boston, it’s critical that the City explores purchase this and any necessary equipment to ensure accessible pathways and roads for all, including first responders, our seniors, persons with disabilities, and young families with strollers; *and*

NOWTHEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the City of Boston purchasing snow melters.

Filed in City Council: February 2, 2026