

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN,
MEJIA, SANTANA, AND WORRELL**



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE APPLICATION AND INTENT OF RULE 15

WHEREAS, Rule 15 of the Boston City Council governs the filing of matters that are duplicative of or substantively similar to matters already in Committee or previously acted upon during the current municipal year; and

WHEREAS, Rule 15 provides that it shall not preclude filings whose content is on a different subtopic, or filings for which a hearing or debate would not result in the same hearing or the same debate as a previous filing; and

WHEREAS, the Clerk is charged with placing on the agenda only the first-filed matter when filings are determined to be duplicative or substantially similar; and

WHEREAS, clarity and consistency in the interpretation and application of Rule 15 are essential to maintaining transparency, fairness, and effective legislative process; and

WHEREAS, Members of the Council frequently file matters addressing related or overlapping subjects, including recognition resolutions, policy resolutions, and hearing orders, which may differ in scope, intent, or subtopic;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review the intent and application of Rule 15, including the standards for determining substantial similarity, the distinction between subtopics, and the role of the Clerk and Council in applying the rule, and to consider whether additional guidance is warranted to ensure consistent and effective legislative practice.

Filed on: March 4, 2026