

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS GABRIELA COLETTA ZAPATA, SHARON DURKAN, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, AND WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE STATUS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON'S CURBSIDE FOOD WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has established Zero Waste Boston as a guiding framework for reducing the volume of waste sent to landfills and incinerators, with a long-term goal of diverting 80 percent of waste from disposal by 2035; *and*

WHEREAS, The City, in partnership with Garbage to Garden, Inc., operates a free curbside food waste collection program for residents of buildings with six units or fewer; *and*

WHEREAS, Enrollment in the program is currently full, with a public waitlist open to residents across all Boston neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, Residents of buildings with seven or more units are not currently eligible for curbside collection and are directed instead to Project Oscar community drop-off sites or private composting contracts; *and*

WHEREAS, Project Oscar operates approximately 20 community compost drop-off locations across the City, providing a valuable supplement to curbside service, though access to these sites varies considerably by neighborhood; *and*

WHEREAS, A hearing would provide an opportunity for the Council to receive an update from the Administration on the current scale of the program and waitlist status, operational and financial considerations that inform eligibility criteria, and the City's longer-term vision for composting infrastructure; *and*

WHEREAS, Understanding the full landscape of food waste diversion—including the respective roles of curbside collection, community drop-offs, and commercial composting—will help the Council better support the Administration's sustainability goals and identify areas where legislative or budgetary action may be warranted; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council shall hold a hearing to receive an update on the City's curbside food waste collection program, including current enrollment and waitlist data, program operations and partnership structure, access and equity considerations across neighborhoods and building types, progress toward Zero Waste Boston goals, and the Administration's plans for program growth, with representatives from the Department of Public Works, the Environment Department, and other relevant city officials.

Filed on: April 8, 2026