



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Offered by Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George and Frank Baker

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING MEDICALLY SUPERVISED INJECTION FACILITIES

- WHEREAS:* The opioid epidemic has had a devastating effect on the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, with a 350% increase in overdose deaths since 2000 according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health. In 2017 on average 6 people a day lose their lives to opioid overdose, making it the number one cause of accidental death in the Commonwealth.
- WHEREAS:* A study from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health states that opioid related deaths are increasing at a faster rate in Massachusetts than the rest of the United States.
- WHEREAS:* In Boston, we are committed to fighting the opioid epidemic and have adopted many harm reduction strategies such as safe needle exchange and promoting access to overdose reversing drugs like Naloxone.
- WHEREAS:* After thorough analysis of Medically Supervised Injection Facilities the Massachusetts Medical Society has adopted a resolution urging Massachusetts to launch a pilot program allowing the creation of two Medically Supervised Injection Facilities, commonly referred to as Safe Injection Sites.
- WHEREAS:* A study of the Safe Injection Site in Vancouver, Canada demonstrated a 35% reduction in opioid related overdose deaths and a significant increase in access to drug treatment. However, impacts of Safe Injections Sites on host communities have been mixed.
- WHEREAS:* The centralization of recovery services in the City of Boston has led to a number of challenges. For example, since March of 2015 the City of Boston collected over 20,000 improperly discarded hypodermic needles.
- WHEREAS:* Safe Injection Sites are controversial and wrought with medical, ethical and legal questions for communities. Furthermore, the Boston City Council has a responsibility to promote thoughtful conversation that represents all perspectives while working to promote the safety and wellbeing of all; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:* That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to determine the impacts of a Supervised Medical Injection Facility in Boston.

Filed June 7, 2017