

;;;BCC 180409

MICHAEL F.

ITEMS SHOULD BE NOTED
THIS WAS, APRIL 182017, THIS
ORDINANCE WOULD CODIFY TWO WAYS
FOR BOSTON RESIDENTS TO
PARTICIPATE IN THE LEGISLATIVE
PROCESS, ONE IN, ANY RESIDENCE
CAN SUBMIT A PETITION WHICH THE
COUNCIL MAY ACT ON AT ITS
DISCRETION AND 2 A PETITION
SIGNED BY 500 PLUS RESIDENTS
MUST BE GIVEN A HEARING WITHIN
THREE MONTHS.

PETITION MUST BE SOMETHING THAT
COULD BE PASSED AND ORDERED BY
THE CITY COUNCIL.

PETITIONS EXCLUDE MATTERS
AFFECTING COUNCIL OPERATIONS AND
ORGANIZATION, EMERGENCY
MEASURES, LOAN ORDERS AND
APPROPRIATION IT IS, PERSONNEL,
ELECTIONS AND APPOINTMENTS,
REFERENDA IN ADDITION TO
PETITIONS THE COUNCIL NEED NOT
ADDRESS A PETITION IF THERE HAS
BEEN SUBSTANTIAL SIMILAR
PROCEEDING WITHIN THE PREVIOUS
CALENDAR YEAR.

HEARINGS MAY BE HELD ON
MULTIPLE PETITIONS AT ONCE.
IN, AND THE CITY CLERK MAY
OUTLINE FURTHER PROCEDURES AND
POLICIES REGARDING SUBMISSION
AND ACCEPTANCE OF PETITIONS.
ON HOUSEKEEPING NOTE, I JUST
WANT TO REMIND FOLKS IS A PUBLIC
HEARING AND IS BEING RECORDED
AND WILL BE BROADCAST ON COMCAST
8,R CN8 TWO, VERIZON 1964 AND
ONLINE, AND JUST ASK FOLKS TO
PLEASE SILENCE YOUR CELLPHONES
AND OTHER DEVICES.

WE ARE JOINED HERE BY MY
COLLEAGUES IN ORDER OF THEIR
ARRIVAL, CITY COUNCIL MICHELLE
WU, THE LEAD SPONSOR CITY
COUNCILOR ED FLYNN, I BELIEVE
WHO IS NEXT, CITY COUNCILOR WHO
IS AFTER ED?
CITY 0 COUNCILOR ANNISSA ESSAIBI
GEORGE.

>> CITY COUNCILOR KIM JANEY,
MICHELLE YOU IS GOING TO, GO KIM
JANEY IS GOING TO GO, ES SEES
GOING TO GO, JOSH ZAKIM, DID YOU
GUYS COME TOGETHER, CAN GO
TOGETHER --

>> I THINK YOU HAVE IT WRONG.
WE WILL FIGURE IT OUT.
COUNCILOR MCCARTHY.
COUNCILOR MATT O'MALLEY IS
JOINING US.

[LAUGHTER.]

>> COUNCILOR EDWARDS, AND ALSO
WE HAVE A COLLEAGUE WHO EXTENDS
A LETTER IN AND I WILL READ IT,
DEAR CHAIRMAN FLAHERTY, DUE TO A
LONGSTANDING SCHEDULING CONFLICT
I AM NOT ABLE TO MAKE IT ON THE
ORDINANCE TO RIGHT TO FREE
PETITION.

I WANT TO THANK ALL, COUNCILOR
WU AND OTHERS, THE RIGHT OF
PARTICIPATION IS ANOTHER FORM OF
COMMUNICATION FROM OUR
CONSTITUENTS IN A DIALOGUE OF
DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENT, I SUPPORT
THE IDEA OF THIS ORDINANCE AND
LOOK FORWARD TO CONTINUED
DISCUSSION.

RON CLARK WILL BE AVAILABLE AT
TODAY'S HEARING AND SHE
WILL -- I WILL INTEND TO REVIEW
THE TAPE OF TODAY'S HEARING,
SINCERELY, AYANNA PRESSLEY, I
WILL TURN IT OVER TO THE LEAD
SPONSOR.

I KNOW WE HAVE THREE GUESTS FROM
THE ADMINISTRATION, OUR CLERK
AND FORMER CITY COUNCILOR AND
CITY CLERK, MAUREEN FEENEY
JOINED BY OUR ELECTION
COMMISSIONER, DION IRISH AND --
SO WITH NO FURTHER ADO,
COUNCILOR WU.

THANK YOU SO MUCH TO THE
ADMINISTRATION, REPRESENTATIVES,
WHO WERE WITH US WHEN WE HAD A
HEARING ON THIS LAST TERM AS
WELL.

I WANT TO START WITH A BIG, BIG
THANK YOU TO THE PERSON WHOSE
BRAINCHILD THIS IS, CRAWFORD O
WHO IS HERE WITH US, JAMAL
REACHED OUT TO OUR OFFICE AND

SAID HEY THE STATE HAS THIS
RIGHT OF FREE PETITION THAT
ALLOWS RESIDENTS TO FILE BILLS
UP AT THE STATEHOUSE.

COULD WE DO THAT HERE?

>> AND BONN DOING SOME MORE
RESEARCH WE FIGURED OUT THAT WE
COULD ACTUALLY EVEN DO BETTER
THAN THAT BY CODIFYING IT AT THE
CITY LEVEL AS ABOUT A DOZEN
OTHER CITIES IN MASSACHUSETTS
HAVE DONE.

BECAUSE WHEN IT IS COTTED TIED
AT THE CITY LEVEL IT IS NOT JUST
ABOUT SUBMITTING SOMETHING THAT
MAY GO INTO A PILE AND BE TAKEN
UP BY A REP OR NOT, IT IS
ACTUALLY ABOUT GUARANTEEING A
HEARING WITHIN A CERTAIN AMOUNT
OF TIME.

SO I WANT TO QUICKLY READ DOWN
THE LIST OF OTHER CITIES SO WE
HAVE A SENSE OF WHO ALREADY DOES
THIS.

IT IS NEWTON, WINTHROP,
BRIDGEWATER, GLOUCESTER YOU IN,
LAWRENCE, RANDOLPH, AMESBURY,
CHELSEA AND NEWBURYPORT AND THE
NUMBER HOW MUCH SIGNATURES THAT
THEY REQUIRE AS A MINIMUM
THRESHOLD RANGE FROM 50 TO 150
SIGNATURES.

AND THEY GUARANTEE HEARINGS THEN
TO HAPPEN EITHER WITHIN TWO
MONTHS OR THREE MONTHS, THAT'S
THE GENERAL SENSE. MY OFFICE
OVER THE COURSE OF LAST TERM HAD
REACHED OUT TO THE CLERKS AND
COUNCILORS, COUNCILORS IN EACH
OF THESE MUNICIPALITIES I CAN
SHARE THAT AGAIN THIS YEAR IF
YOU LIKE BUT OVERALL THE
FEEDBACK WAS RESOUNDINGLY THAT
THEY DON'T HAVE AN ISSUE IN
TERMS OF OVERWHELMING BUSINESS.
MOST OF THESE CITIES AND TOWNS
SEE ONE OR TWO A YEAR.

I KNOW BOSTON IS VERY DIFFERENT
THAN SOME OF THESE
MUNICIPALITIES AND WE ARE MORE
ACTIVE HERE, BUT THEY ALL LAUDED
THIS AS A GREAT WAY TO ENGAGE
RESIDENTS AND MAKE SURE THAT
THEY WERE FULLY ACCOUNTABLE,

FULLY RESPONSIVE TO WHAT THE COMMUNITY WANTED TO TALK ABOUT. SO SIMILARLY, I WANT TO POINT OUT THAT THERE ARE A FEW SMALL CHANGES, SIPS THIS HAS BEEN REFILED COMPARED TO LAST TERM. THE BIGGEST ONE IS THAT THE SIGNATURE THRESHOLD WAS INCREASED AND I KNOW WE HAVE GONE BACK AND FORTH AND I PERSONALLY DON'T EVEN -- IT WAS SUBMITTED WITH 250 SIGNATURES AT FIRST.

MOST CLOSELY MATCHING THE SIGNATURE THRESHOLD THAT SOMEONE MIGHT -- WOULD HAVE TO HIT TO RUN FOR OFFICE FOR DISTRICT COUNCIL, WHICH IS ABOUT 250. BUT FEEDBACK FROM COLLEAGUES AND FROM THE LAST HEARING, WE HAVE INCREASED THAT TO KIND OF GET AT THE NUMBER FOR ESSENTIALLY TWO DISTRICTS THAT IF YOU WANT TO BRING SMOG TO THE FULL COUNCIL IT SHOULD BE A CITY WIDE ISSUE AND HAVE A SLIGHTLY HIGHER THRESHOLD.

WE ARE CERTAINLY OPEN TO DISCUSSING THAT NUMBER AND WHAT IS APPROPRIATE, BUT WHAT I WOULD HOPE IS THAT AT THE BASELINE WE HAVE A WAY FOR RESIDENTS TO DRAWLY ENGAGE WITH CITY GOVERNMENT AND PARTICULARLY THE COUNCIL.

OTHER MINOR CHANGES MADE, MARLEY IN RESPONSE TO .. MADAM CLERK'S FEEDBACK AROUND THE TIMING AND MAKING SURE THAT THE CLOCK WOULDN'T START UNTIL AFTER CERTIFICATION OF SIGNATURES RATHER THAN JUST THE CLERK'S OFFICE RECEIVING THAT.

AND I THINK THAT WAS IT.

SO MY FINAL COMMENTS ARE JUST I THINK THIS MATTER IS MORE THAN EVER RIGHT NOW IN THIS MOMENT IN OUR POLITICAL TIMES WHEN CITIZEN ENGAGEMENT AND REALLY INVOLVING RESIDENTS DEEPLY IN OUR BUSINESS OF GOVERNMENT MATTERS BEYOND JUST THE ACTUAL HEARINGS THAT WE WILL HAVE OR THE POLICIES THAT MIGHT COME OUT OF IT, ALL OF

WHICH ARE EXTREMELY IMPORTANT,
BUT I THINK THE BIGGEST PROBLEM
THAT OUR COUNTRY IS STRUGGLING
WITH RIGHT NOW IS LACK OF TRUST
AND LACK OF COMMUNICATION AND
PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN RESIDENTS,
GOVERNMENT AND OTHER
INSTITUTIONS, AND THIS WOULD BE
THE DIRECT WAY TO MAKE SURE THAT
WE ARE HEARING ABOUT EVERYTHING
THAT MATTERS TO PEOPLE, OPENING
OURSELVES UP IN THE WAY THAT
WOULD BE THE BEST FOR THE CITY
AND/OR ALL OF OUR COMMUNITIES.
SO I WILL HAVE MORE QUESTIONS
FOR A SPECIFIC REPS BUT I WANTED
TO THANK EVERYONE FOR HEARING
THIS AGAIN.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR WHO IS
THE LEAD SPONSOR UNLESS MY
COLLEAGUES HAVE ANY DESIRE TO
DIVERT WE CAN GET RIGHT INTO THE
PANEL DISCUSSION.

I SEE DION IS WITH US AND MADAM
CLERKLY DEFER TO YOU AS TO WHO
SHOULD START OFF.

>> FROM THE ADMINISTRATION.

>> GOOD AFTERNOON, CHAIRMAN
FLAHERTY.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT CAMPBELL AND
ALL OF THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THIS
ESTEEMED BODY, MY NAME IS IRISH
AND CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD OF
ELECTION COMMISSIONERS.

I APPRECIATE THE INVITATION TO
TESTIFY TODAY REGARDING THIS
ORDINANCE THAT IS INTENDED TO
PROMOTE TRANSPARENCY AND
ENGAGEMENT WITH CONSTITUENTS.
BECAUSE THESE TOPICS ARE TOPICS
THAT MAYOR WALSH CARES DEEPLY
ABOUT.

THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT STANDS
TO BE AS HELPFUL AS WE CAN TO
PROVIDE INPUT ON THIS
LEGISLATION SHOULD BIT APPROVED
WE WILL ALSO DO OUR BEST TO
FULFILL OUR ROLE IN ITS
IMPLEMENTATION.

OVERALL WE HAVE NO MAJOR ISSUES
WITH THE PROPOSAL BUT THERE ARE
THINGS THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO
MAKE THE COUNCIL AWARE OF SO AS
TO MANAGE EXPECTATIONS AND THERE

ARE ALSO DETAILS THAT WOULD NEED TO BE WORKED OUT THAT WE WOULD HAVE GREATER INTEREST IN -- AS IT RELATES TO THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT. THE FIRST THING I WOULD LIKE TO POINT OUT IS THE LIMITATION ON DATA.

WE DON'T HAVE INFORMATION ON 100 PERCENT OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON.

WE ARE DOING OUR ANNUAL 7 SEES WE HAVE INFORMATION FROM THOSE WHO RESPOND TO OUR CENSUS AND FOLKS WHO ARE REGISTERED VOTERS .. AND BEYOND THE CENSUS RESPONSES WE ALSO COLLECT INFORMATION FROM A VARIETY OF SOURCES, SO WE CAN DO A THOROUGH JOB WITH OUR ANNUAL CENSUS SO WE COLLECT INFORMATION FROM AREA COLLEGES, FROM MANAGEMENT COMPANIES, ET CETERA.

WE DO E-MAIL BLASTS, TO OUR CITY AGENCIES AND TO CULMINATE THE PROCESS WE DO A DOOR TO DOOR CANVAS OF THE ENTIRE CITY, SOMETIMES AT LEAST TWICE DURING THE SUMMER MONTHS SO WE ARE VERY CONFIDENT IN THE DATA WE DO HAVE, BUT I JUST WANT TO CAUTION YOU IT IS NOT 100 PERCENT OF ALL OF THE RESIDENTS IN THE CITY. AND DIFFICULT I DON'T KNOW, DIFFICULT ON, DION, DION, YOU JUST DON'T HAVE 100 PERCENT ACCURACY ON --

>> WELL, I AM NOT PREPARED TO GIVE A PREFERENCE, I JUST WANTED TO STATE THE LIMITATION WHEN WE REFER TO JUST RESIDENTS. THE OTHER LIMITATION THAT WE WOULD HAVE --

>> BUT SAY SOMEONE WANTS TO DO A FREE PETITION AND SOMEONE HANDS YOU A STACK OF SIGNATURES. YOU HAVE TO NOW GO THROUGH THE NAME, THE ADDRESS AND THE WARD AND PRECINCTS, YOU WOULD DO?
>> YES.

WHAT WE WOULD HAVE TO DO FOR THIS, BECAUSE THE VOTER REGISTRATION DATABASE WE USE TO VALIDATE SIGNATURES FOR OTHER TYPES OF THINGS LIKE CANDIDACY

AND PETITIONS IS NOT SOMETHING WE CAN USE FOR THIS PURPOSE. WE WOULD HAVE TO DOWNLOAD INFORMATION FOR EACH PETITION AND CREATE A SEPARATE DATABASE THAT WE WOULD HAVE TO -- OF RESIDENTS ONLY WE WOULD MATCH UP SIGNATURES ON THEIR LIST TO.

>> AND WOULD THAT BE A CUMBERSOME PROCESS?

CAN YOU TAKE US THROUGH HOW THAT WOULD WORK AND HOW LONG IT WOULD TAKE AND WHAT RESOURCES YOU WOULD NEED TO DO THAT?

>> SO I CAN GET INTO THE DETAILS OF WHAT THAT WOULD LOOK LIKE HE WOULD ACTUALLY BE PUTTING THAT TOGETHER SO WHAT I WOULD LIKE TO SAY THOUGH IS WE WOULD -- IT IS VERY IMPORTANT WE HAVE SUFFICIENT TIME, BECAUSE OF THE FLUCTUATING WORK AND NEEDS OF THE DEPARTMENT.

IF WE ARE -- IF WE HAVE TO PROCESS PETITIONS AT THE TIME WHEN WE ARE DOING -- WE ARE UP AGAINST A REGISTRATION DEADLINE OR DEADLINE TO CERTIFY SIGNATURES FOR CANDIDACY OR OTHER ACTIVITIES THAT COME UP, THEN WE WOULD NEED MORE TIME THAN AT OTHER TIMES WHEN WE WOULD BE ABLE TO PROCESS THINGS MORE QUICKLY BUT IF YOU COULD PLEASE, SABRINA, TALK TO SOME OF THE DETAILS ON HOW WE WOULD CREATE THIS DATABASE.

SO OUR PLAN OBVIOUSLY WE WILL NEED MORE CLARIFICATION ON HOW AND WHAT IS NEEDED FOR THIS, TAKE A SNAPSHOT OF THE DATABASE AS IT STANDS FOR EACH PETITION AS IT IS SUBMITTED AND THEN USE THAT TO VERIFY THE SIGNATURES THAT ARE SUBMITTED TO US. ANOTHER THING TO KEEP IN MIND, ALL REGISTERED VOTERS DO SUPPLY US WITH A SIGNATURE OF THEIR REGISTRATION, WHETHER IT IS THROUGH THE ONLINE SYSTEM OR A PAPER FORM, RESIDENTS ARE NOT REQUIRED TO GIVE US A SIGNATURE FOR EVERY SINGLE INDIVIDUAL. SO THERE COULD BE TIMES WHERE WE

ARE GETTING A SIGNATURE FROM A RESIDENT THAT WE CAN'T COMPARE IT TO ANYONE AND GIVE A GOOD US IS US IS SABINOPIE -- IN REGARDS TO MAKING COPIES OF THE DATABASE, ONCE WE HAVE THE FIRST .. SYSTEM SET UP I DON'T THINK IT IS GOING TO BE THAT MUCH TIME TO DO THAT, BUT IT IS TIME TO VERIFY FIVE, BUT IT TAKES TIME TO VERIFY 500 SIGNATURES.

>> AND AT TIMES WHEN WE HAVE ELECTIONS GOING ON WITH PREPARATION FOR ELECTIONS, EARLY VOTING SEASON IS COMING UPON US AS WELL, THAT IS THE THING THAT WE ARE ASKING FOR THE EXTENDED TIME.

AND ONE OTHER CAVEAT IS, WE ONLY CAPTURE RESIDENTS 17 YEARS OF AGE OR OLDER SO IF THERE ARE RESIDENTS THAT ARE SIGNING ANY PETITIONS THAT ARE UNDER 17 WE DO NOT HAVE THAT IN OUR DATABASE.

>> VERY GOOD.

>> AND THE -- NEXT IS THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT.

>> YES.

THE OTHER THING THAT WE WOULD LIKE TO DISCUSS, IT MAY BE A WORKING SESSION IS APPROPRIATE TO HAVE THIS CONVERSATION BUT WE WANT TO GET INTO SOME OF THE DETAILS AS TO WHAT FORMS WOULD BE USED, THE PROCESS AND PROCEDURES, THE DETAILS THAT WOULD MAKE IT RUN SMOOTHLY FOR CONSTITUENTS AND FOR THE AGENCIES INVOLVED.

>> VERY GOOD.

AND MADAM CLERK IF WE COULD TURN IT OVER TO YOU FROM YOUR PERSPECTIVE.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN, AND COUNCILORS.

IT IS A PRIVILEGE TO BE HERE. WITH REGARD TO THE MATTER THAT IS BEFORE US, IN MANY WAYS, IT IS ALMOST LIKE A REVERSAL OF JOB DESCRIPTIONS BECAUSE WE ARE ASKING CONSTITUENTS TO COME AND FILE LEGISLATION. SORRY ABOUT THAT.

OR PROPOSING LEGISLATION.
BUT AS HAS BEEN INDICATED THERE
ARE SEVERAL OF THE CITIES AND
TOWNS THAT FEEL THIS HAS BEEN A
GREAT TOOL IN ENGAGING AND
CERTAINLY WE DON'T NEED TO GO
ANY FURTHER THAN LOOK AT THE
LAST SEVERAL ELECTIONS AND HOW
MANY PEOPLE ARE COMING OUT AND
VOTING.
AND, YOU KNOW, PERHAPS THIS IS A
TOOL TO INCREASE THE VOTING
TURNOUT IN ELECTIONS.
BUT ONE THING I WANT TO GO ON
THE RECORD AS STATING, THERE IS
NOTHING IN THE COUNCIL RULES OR
IN THE CITY CHARTER THAT
REQUIRES A HEARING SO -- NOT
THAT ANYONE WOULD DO THIS AND
CERTAINLY IT WOULD BE
IRRESPONSIBLE TO, BUT YOU
TECHNICALLY COULD PASS THE
BUDGET WITHOUT A HEARING, WHICH
IS NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN, BUT
THERE IS NOTHING PREVENTING YOU
FROM PUTTING SOMETHING, PUT IT
IN COMMITTEE AND THE NEXT WEEK
TAKING IT OUT.
OBVIOUSLY A COMMITTEE REPORT IS
VERY HELPFUL TOOL, BUT -- SO
THAT IN AND OF ITSELF BASED ON
TIMELINES, WHEN THEY TALK ABOUT
ANYTHING THAT IS FILED THREE
MONTHS BEFORE THE END OF THE
YEAR WOULD BE REFILED, BECAUSE
IT CAN'T BE TAKEN UP FOR
CONSIDERATION IN THAT WINDOW.
THERE ARE SOME OTHER CONCERNS
THAT I WOULD EXPRESS, AND THAT
IS THAT A HEARING BE HELD WITHIN
TWO WEEKS.
ONCE WE RECEIVE, AS YOU KNOW,
WITH THE FILING -- THE CLERK IS
THE FILING AGENCY FOR THE CITY
OF BOSTON.
EVERYTHING THAT COMES INTO OUR
OFFICE GETS TIME STAMPED.
BUT IN THIS INSTANCE, THAT
INFORMATION WOULD THEN BE HAND
DELIVERED PROBABLY TO SABINO,
PROVIDING OUR WONDERFUL ELECTION
COMMISSIONER DIRECT THAT WAY.
THAT IT WOULD BEGIN THE PROCESS
OF REALLY CERTIFYING THESE NAMES

AND SO IT MIGHT BE OUR SUGGESTION THAT WE DON'T START ANY CLOCK UNTIL THE NAMES HAVE BEEN CERTIFIED, BECAUSE IT COULD BE IN THE MIDDLE OF A CAMPAIGN OR A NOMINATION PAPERS, AND, YOU KNOW, IT -- IT IS HARD TO SAY, IT IS NOT WE WANT TO SAY ONE IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER, BUT, YOU KNOW, I THINK IT IS LIKE EVERYTHING ELSE.

WE SORT OF HAVE TO TAKE THINGS AS WE RECEIVE THEM, BUT ALSO BE AWARE OF THE ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH SOMETHING GETS FILED.

SO THAT WOULD BE ONE CONCERN I HAVE.

AND EVEN AFTER CERTIFICATION, IN THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST, I THINK AT LEAST IN JULY, MAYBE IN AUGUST ALSO, WE ONLY HAVE ONE MEETING.

SO WE WOULD BE RIGHT OFF THE BAT, THAT TWO WEEKS WOULDN'T WORK.

AND SO, YOU KNOW, I THINK TO JUST CHANGE THAT LANGUAGE ON THE SECOND PAGE THAT JUST MIGHT BE FOR THE NEXT HEARING OR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING, SOMETHING LIKE THAT, THAT --

>> THROUGH THE, CHAIRMAN WU, COUNCILOR WU.

>> I AM SORRY THAT MAY HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE CHANGES REFLECTING OUR FEEDBACK FOR LAST TIME. FOR TOTAL CLARIFICATION ON THE TIMELINE, IT IS THREE MONTHS DATE -- I AM SORRY.

SO THREE MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF FILING, BUT TWO WEEKS FROM THE DATE OF SUBMISSION TO THE CLERK'S OFFICE, IT SAYS UNLESS AN EXTENSION IS GRANTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT TO TRY TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT WHAT TIME OF YEAR AND WHETHER THERE IS OTHER ELECTIONS AND CERTIFICATIONS HAPPENING OR AT THE NEXT SCHEDULED CITY COUNCIL MEETING, SPECIFICALLY TO ADDRESS THAT SUMMER SCHEDULE.

I THINK, YOU KNOW, I PERSONALLY UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING THAT IS

HAPPENING, BUT WOULD HATE FOR THE TIME -- THE CLOCK TO ONLY START AFTER CERTIFICATION, JUST BECAUSE THEN IT WOULD ESSENTIALLY BE SAYING WE ARE NOT GOING TO ENTERTAIN THIS AT ALL DURING CERTAIN MONTHS OF THE YEAR WHERE THERE ARE ELECTIONS HAPPENING, BUT WITH THE PROCESS SET UP THAT AN EXTENSION COULD BE GRANTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES, THAT AT LEAST CREATES A WAY IF IT IS -- IF THE WORKLOAD IS TRULY TOO MUCH IT DOESN'T AUTOMATICALLY BAR CERTAIN MONTHS OF THE YEAR FROM THIS HAPPENING.

>> AND THE OTHER ISSUE THAT I WOULD JUST RAISE, AND WOULD BE CERTAINLY MORE HAPPY TO TAKE ON THIS RESPONSIBILITY, BUT IT SPEAKS TO HEARINGS OF TWO OR MORTICIANS FILED IN THE SECTION, IT MAY BE HELD AT THE AT THE SAME TIME AND PLACE WHICH IS, WHICH COULD HAPPEN ON MANY OCCASIONS, IT GOES ON TO SAY THE THE CITY CLERK WILL NOTICE ISSUE OF THE HEARINGS TO THE FIRST 10 PERSONS WHOSE NAMES APPEAR ON THE PETITION.

WITHIN THE 48 HOURS, AND WE ARE HAPPY TO DO THAT IF WE WANT TO TAKE ON THAT PRACTICE FOR FREE PETITIONS, BUT HISTORICALLY .. THAT IS A FUNCTION THAT HAS BEEN DONE BY CENTRAL STAFF SO AS TO KEEP SORT OF INFORMATION CLOSER AT HAND TO THE COUNCILORS, SO THAT THEY WILL HAVE A BETTER SENSE OF WHO IS COMING, WHO WILL BE TESTIFYING, THAT KIND OF THING, SO I AM HAPPY TO HAVE THE CLERK'S OFFICE TAKE ON THAT RESPONSIBILITY AND THAT MIGHT BE SOMETHING THAT YOU WOULD WANT TO THINK ABOUT AND SO OTHER THAN THAT, WE ARE PREPARED TO ASSIST IN ANY WAY POSSIBLE AND IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER QUESTIONS, WE ARE HAPPY, WE ARE AVAILABLE TODAY OR ANY OTHER DAY TO ANSWER ANY QUESTIONS AS YOU MOVE FORWARD

WITH THIS PROPOSAL.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM CLERK.
THE CHAIR RECOGNIZES COUNCILOR
WU.

>> OKAY.

SO LET'S SEE.

I HAD A COUPLE OF POINTS I
WANTED TO ADDRESS.

SO IN TERMS OF A GOOD POINT BY
MADAM CLERK THAT MAY NEED TO
MATCH TO INCLUDE THIS PORTION
BUT SOMETHING THE COUNCIL COULD
DO I HAD A QUESTION ON THE
CENSUS AGE.

SO RIGHT NOW, THE CENSUS ONLY
ASKS FOR INFORMATION FROM
RESIDENTS AGES 17 AND UP, THERE
IS -- AND THERE IS NO -- WOULD
THERE BE ANY OTHER PROVISION --
SO ESSENTIALLY WE MAY HAVE TO
EDIT ORDINANCE TO SAY RESIDENTS
WHO CAN BE CERTIFIED THROUGH THE
RECORDS CREATED BY THE CITY'S
ANNUAL CENSUS.

DOES THAT.

>> THAT MAKES SENSE.

>> IS THAT BETTER?

>> I DON'T KNOW IF -- I AM
SORRY.

I DIDN'T MEAN TO JUMP IN.

THE UNIVERSITY ACCOUNTABILITY
REPORT MIGHT BE ANOTHER VEHICLE,
AND THAT IS SHARED BOTH BY
SECTIONAL SERVICES AND DND.

>> OKAY. YOU KNOW, AND THAT
GOES BACK TO WHERE RESIDENTS ARE
LIVING, WHERE OUR STUDENTS ARE
LIVING OFF CAMPUS AND ALL OF
THAT, BUT THAT MIGHT BE ANOTHER
MECHANISM TO FIND REGISTERED
PEOPLE.

>> OKAY.

AND SO HOW LONG -- HOW MANY
STAFF DOES IT TAKE TO CERTIFY
500 SIGNATURES WHEN WE ARE
TALKING ABOUT, FOR EXAMPLE,
RUNNING FOR OFFICE?

>> WELL, DEPENDING ON THE
WORKLOAD, ONE PERSON CAN
PROBABLY TAKE A DAY TO DO ALL OF
THOSE IF THEY ARE NOT
INTERRUPTED.

OBVIOUSLY IF THE SIGNATURES ARE
SUBMITTED TO US IN GOOD FORMAT

WE CAN READ THE WRITING OF THE SIGNATURES THAT ARE PRESENTED. OBVIOUSLY THE MORE SIGNATURE WE HAVE TO GO THROUGH, THE LONGER IT WILL TAKE TO TRY TO GET TO THE 500.

>> OKAY.

>> SO --

>> AND IN TERMS OF THE CENSUS, THAT HAPPENS ONCE A YEAR AT THE CITY LEVEL, BUT IS THERE ANY WAY -- IF SOMEONE WANTED TO BE ADDED TO THE CENSUS OFF CYCLE IS THAT POSSIBLE OR --

>> OKAY.

SO THE CENSUS WE START DOING THE MAILING IN MID JANUARY AND IT IS AN ONGOING PROCESS STRAIGHT THROUGH ALMOST UNTIL OCTOBER UNTIL WE RECEIVE ALL OF THE COLLEGE DORMITORIES AND THEN AFTER THAT IS ALL ENTERED INTO THE SYSTEM, IN THE MIDST OF WORKING THE ELECTIONS, THERE IS ALL THE CLEANUP THAT HAS TO BE DONE AS WELL SO WE CAN REMOVE ALL DUPLICATES AND SO ON AND SO FORTH.

>> OKAY.

>> IT IS PRETTY MUCH A YEAR CYCLE, AS SOON AS WE FINISH DECEMBER WE START ALL OVER AGAIN IN JANUARY.

>> SO IF SOMEONE WHO DID FILL IT OUT IN JANUARY, WANTED TO TAKE PART IN A PETITION OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT, THEY COULD FIND A FORM SOMEWHERE AND TURN IT IN BEFORE SIGNING THE PETITION, THEORETICALLY?

>> THAT IS CORRECT.

GO RIGHT ONLINE AND SUBMIT THEIR RESIDENCE RIGHT OR DACK.

>> OKAY THIS COULD BE A BOOST FOR PARTICIPATION.

>> ANYONE WHO SIGNS ON A NATIONAL LEVEL IS MORE LIKELY TO BE REGISTERED AFTER, REGISTER TO VOTE AND VOTE AFTER THAT.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> COUNCILOR FLYNN DEFERRING TO COUNCILOR JANEY, WHO IS JOINED BY FRANK BAKE, WE HAVE BEEN JOINED BY FRANK BAKER AS WELL.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR.
>> SO MANY TERMS OF THE BENEFITS, I THINK THEY ARE CLEAR WHENEVER WE CAN KIND OF GIVE POWER TO THE PEOPLE, PUT IT DIRECTLY IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE, THAT'S A GOOD THING. BUT I GUESS MY QUESTIONS ARE, IN TERMS OF IMPLEMENTATION AND I WOULD ADDRESS THEM TO YOU, COMMISSIONER, IN TERMS OF THE OTHER TOWNS THAT HAVE FREE PETITIONS LIKE NEWTON AND CHELSEA, ARE THERE LESSONS WE KNOW FROM THEM AND HOW IT WORKS FOR THEM IN TERMS OF, YOU KNOW, GETTING THE SIGNATURES CERTIFIED?

ARE THEY LOOKING AT RESIDENTS VERSUS VOTER REGISTRATION? WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED FROM OTHER TOWNS?

ARE YOU LOOKING AT THAT?

>> I WILL SPEAK TO NEWTON BECAUSE ACTUALLY ONE OF OUR EMPLOYEES IS A FORMER EMPLOYEE OF NEWTON CITY CLERK IN THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT. IN NEWTON, THE NUMBER IS VERY DIFFERENT, IT IS 50, AND IT IS REGISTERED VOTERS, SO IT IS A LITTLE BIT EASIER FOR THEM BASED ON THE NUMBER THAT THEY HAVE TO LOOK AT, BUT AS SABINO POINTED OUT, EVEN FOR 500 SIGNATURES IT WOULD ONLY TAKE ONE EMPLOYEE IN, AND ONE DAY FOR US.

THE OTHER --

>> DEPENDING ON --

>> FACTORING IN, CREATING, YOU KNOW, DOWNLOADING THE LIST AND CREATING A DATABASE --

>> AND WOULD YOU SEE THE PROS AND CONS OF USING KIND OF THE VOTER -- WOULD YOU SUGGEST THE VOTER REGISTRATION IS A BETTER DATABASE BECAUSE IT IS CLEANER?

>> I MEAN, HOW MANY RESIDENTS ACTUALLY FILL OUT THE CENSUS?

>> WELL, THE CURRENT CENSUS INFORMATION, WE HAVE A 500,000 RESIDENTS RIGHT NOW IN OUR CENSUS DATABASE.

YES, THE VOTER REGISTRATION

DATABASE IS A CLEANER DATABASE
THAN THE RESIDENT DATABASE
BECAUSE WE GET MORE INFORMATION
THAT CAN IDENTIFY SPECIFIC
INDIVIDUALS, WHERE SOME OF THE
CENSUS INFORMATION IS NOT
100 PERCENT COMPLETE, FOR
EXAMPLE, COLLEGES WILL SUBMIT A
LIST OF THEIR RESIDENTS TO US,
BUT WE MAY NOT HAVE THE DATE OF
BIRTH, FOR EXAMPLE.

>> AND IN TERMS OF -- SO 500 CAN
BE DONE IN A DAY, SABINO, BUT
WHAT IF IT IS KIND OF THE ODD
YEAR AND, I DON'T KNOW,
CANDIDATES ARE COLLECTING
SIGNATURES.

WHAT KIND OF BACKLOG DO YOU
FORESEE IF THAT WAS THE CASE?

>> WELL, THAT IS WHAT WE MEAN BY
DEPENDS ON WHAT IS GOING ON ON A
PARTICULAR DAY AND WHAT IS THE
PRIORITY.

>> RIGHT.

SO BEST CASE IS 500 IN A DAY.
WHAT IS THE WORST CASE?

>> A COUPLE HUNDRED.

>> PEOPLE OR HOURS?

>> NO.
PEOPLE.

>> SO WE CAN DO A COUPLE HUNDRED
CERTIFICATIONS, SIGNATURE AS
DAY, LET'S SAY.

>>

>> I THINK THAT IS IT FOR NOW.
>> I WILL COME BACK.
>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR JANE.
>> I RECOGNIZE ANNISSA ESSAIBI
GEORGE.

>> ANDREA CAMPBELL?

>> THANK YOU, COUNSELOR FLAHERTY
AND THANK YOU, COUNCILOR WU FOR
BRINGING THIS BACK BEFORE THE
COUNCIL AND THANK YOU, GUYS, FOR
BEING HERE.

JUST A QUICK QUESTION, DO WE
KNOW OF THE MUNICIPALITY
INFORMATION THE COMMONWEALTH
THAT CURRENTLY DOING THIS, ARE
ANY SIMILAR IN POPULATION TO THE
CITY OF BOSTON?

>> NO.

THERE AREN'T -- THERE IS NO
OTHER COMMUNITY THAT IS SIMILAR

IN SIZE TO THE CITY OF BOSTON.
>> I KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN BY THAT
BUT I MEAN LIKE, FOR EXAMPLE,
WHICH MUNICIPALITY THAT
CURRENTLY DOES IT, WHICH ONE HAS
THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF SORT OF
RESIDENTS?

IS IT 50,000? IS IT 100,000?
I AM ONLY TALKING ABOUT THE
PRACTICALITY AND THE DIFFERENCE
BETWEEN BOSTON, FOR EXAMPLE, IN
TERMS OF NUMBER OF RESIDENTS,
VERSUS SOME OTHER MUNICIPALITIES
THAT MIGHT BE DOING THIS.

>> THERE UH THE CHAIR, COUNCILOR
WU.

>> NEWTON AND LAWRENCE ARE THE
TWO BIGGEST ONES, 88,000 AND
78,000.

>> THANK YOU, THAT IS HELPFUL.

>> IT PROVIDES A LITTLE BIT OF
CONTEXT IN THE SCOPE OF THIS
TOOL WOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT IN
THE CITY OF BOSTON.

I AM ALL FOR TRANSPARENCY AND
THINKING ABOUT TOOLS THAT WILL
ALLOW FOLKS TO MORE EASILY
PARTICIPATE IN GOVERNMENT.
I THINK EACH -- I CAN'T SPEAK
FOR AT LARGE COUNCILORS, NO
DISRESPECT TO OUR AT LARGE
COUNCILORS FOR THE DISTRICT
COUNCILORS, INNOVATIVE TOOLS
THAT WE ARE TRYING TO THINK
ABOUT AT THE DISTRICT LEVEL TO
ENGAGE MORE OF OUR RESIDENTS, SO
SPEAKING FOR MYSELF, I AM
CONTINUE IS, CONSTANTLY GOING
AND TALKING TO THE, ON AVERAGE
10,000 COME OUT BUT ENGAGEMENT
ISN'T JUST VOTING SO WE HAVE
FOLKS WHO ENGAGE WITH OUR OFFICE
WHO DON'T ACTUALLY VOTE BUT
STILL E-MAIL US AND CALL US.
SO HOW CAN WE REACH MORE OF
THOSE FOLKS SO THAT NUMBER IS A
LOT HIGHER THAN LESS THAN
10,000?

I WORRY ABOUT SOMETHING LIKE
THIS FOR A COUPLE OF REASONS.
ONE IS, THE WORKLOAD.
SO I THINK I BROUGHT THIS UP IN
THE FIRST FILING AROUND
PARTICULARLY SOME COMMITTEES

THAT HAVE MORE WORK THAT COME THROUGH THEM SO GOVERNMENT OPS OR CRIMINAL JUSTICE, NOW PLANNING DEVELOPMENT AND TRANSPORTATION, I WORRY ABOUT THE PRIORITIES OF INDIVIDUAL COUNCILORS, ALL OF ALL OF US TAKE OUR CUES FROM VARIOUS FOLKS BUT I THINK COUNCILORS TAKE THEM FROM THEIR DISTRICT RESIDENTS I KNOW I DO SO I LISTEN TO THEM AND THINK ABOUT WHAT ISSUES THEY WANT ME TO SPECTACULAR HEAD AND WE KNOW TO MAKE A DENT ON ANY ISSUE, DYE VERSE AT THIS OR LAW ENFORCEMENT, THE TALKING TO THIS ABOUT WITH COUNCILOR MCCARTHY AND HOW MUCH WORK IT TOOK TO ACTUALLY ADVANCE THAT.

I WORRY ABOUT THE HEARINGS AND FRANKLY TO ME IT IS NOT JUST PO IMPORTANT THAT PEOPLE HAVE A PETITION AND HAVE A HEARING. AFTER THE HEARING THEN WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO WITH THAT?

I IMAGINE FOLKS WANT IT TO TURN INTO AN ORDINANCE, A POLICY CHANGE, A PRACTICE CHANGE OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT SO WHETHER OR NOT THIS IS THE BEST TOOL IN TERMS OF THINKING ABOUT THOSE WORKLOAD CHALLENGES OR THE PRIORITIES THAT EACH OFFICE MAY HAVE SET FOR THEIR OFFICES IN MAKING SURE THAT THOSE GET DONE ALONG WITH NEW ISSUES THAT MIGHT COME UP THROUGH THIS PROCESS, IT IS JUST SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT.

I THINK GOING BACK TO MADAM CLERK, YOUR SORT OF COMMENT ON THE RULES AND CURRENTLY, SO CURRENTLY EVEN IF WE DIDN'T DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS, THERE IS A WAY TO SET UP POSSIBLY A COMMITTEE THAT COULD LOOK ATTAINING IN [TAKING] PETITIONS LIKE THIS AVER PHYSICIAN OF SOME SORT THROUGH THE ELECTIONS DEPARTMENT ON THE RESIDENTS AND, OF COURSE, VERIFYING THAT FOLKS ARE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF BOSTON AND MAKING SURE THEY TRULY ARE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY

OF BOSTON AND SHOULD WE BE DETERMINING IF THEY HAVE BEEN RESIDENTS FOR A PERIOD OF TIME, FOR A LONG PERIOD OF TIME? FOR A YEAR?

FOR 30 DAYS? THAT IS NOT UNCOMMON WHEN COMING TO OTHER THINGS, OTHER PRIVILEGES OR BENEFITS WE AFFORD FOLKS WHO LIVE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON. SO I THINK -- I THINK THIS IS DEFINITELY TIME FOR A WORKING SESSION, BUT I AM RAISING SOME OF THOSE CONCERNS BECAUSE RIGHT NOW WE COULD POSSIBLY SET UP A COMMITTEE THAT SOMEONE COULD CHAIR THAT COULD BRING IN SOME OF THESE PETITIONS AND HAVE HEARINGS ON THE PETITIONS THAT COME IN IN SOME WAY, AND THEN AFTER THE HEARING TO DECIDE WHAT HAPPENS NEXT.

I THINK THAT IS A BIG LIFT, BUT IF SOMEONE IS WILLING TO TAKE THAT ON, BUT I THINK IT IS A BIG LIFT.

BUT I DO WORRY ABOUT THE WORKLOAD PIECE OF THIS, JUST LOOKING AT THE PRIORITIES FOR RESIDENTS IN MY DISTRICT, AND PARTICULARLY, FOR EXAMPLE, BECAUSE OF A DISTRICT COUNCILOR AND I AM HEARING A LOT ABOUT A CERTAIN ISSUE THAT MAY FALL WITHIN, SAY, PUBLIC SAFETY AND CRIMINAL JUSTICE, I AM THE VICE CHAIR OF THAT COMMITTEE BUT IF IT DOESN'T FALL IN THAT COMMITTEE WORK OR FALL WITHIN A PRIORITY AS DICTATED BY THE RESIDENTS IN MY DISTRICT, AM I GETTING YOU WOULD TO OTHER DISTRICTS WHERE THAT MIGHT BE A CONCERN FOR FOLKS IN ANOTHER DISTRICT?

SO I THINK THERE ARE A LOT OF PIECES TO WORK OUT.

THANK YOU FOR ALLOWING ME TO GO ON AND ON AND ON WITH MY JUST THINGS TO CONSIDER AS WE DO SOMETHING LIKE THIS.

SO IT IS NOT JUST ABOUT TRAINS FAIRNESS SITUATE AND ENGAGEMENT, .. IS WILL THE BEST TOOL TO GO

FORWARD, IF WE LOOK AT LEGISLATION THIS COUNCIL HAS PASSED IN PAST YEARS IT IS LOOKING AT THE AMOUNT OF MONEY, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT WE SPEND IN ELECTION YEARS WHEN THE COUNCIL IS ONLY ON THE BALLOT AND KNOW IN ADVANCE THE NUMBER OF FOLKS THAT DO NOT TURN OUT FOR THAT ELECTION BUT SAY TURN OUT FOR THE MAYOR, MAYORIAL ELECTION AND WHETHER IT SHOULD RUN UP WITH THE MAYOR AND WHAT WE COULD DO WITH THE SAVINGS AND DO A CAMPAIGN TO GET FOLKS TO ENGAGE IN A MORE MEANINGFUL WAY. I MEAN WE COULD PAY YOUNG PEOPLE OR OTHERS TO DO CREATIVE ENGAGEMENT WORK WHETHER WITH BLOCK CAPTAIN MODEL OR SOMETHING ELSE TO GET FOLKS ENGAGED, NOT JUST TO FILE SOMETHING FOR A HEARING ORDER, BUT TO TRULY GET THEM CONNECTED ON A PARTICULAR POLICY THEY CARE ABOUT, TO GET THEM CONNECTED IN A SCHOOL IN THEIR DISTRICT, ORGANIZATIONS THAT REACH OUT FOR MENTORS AND WANT MORE MENTORS OF COLORS FROM THEIR DISTRICT AND I THINK THERE ARE CREATIVE WAYS TO THINK ABOUT ENGAGEMENT.

SO I AM JUST -- I AM NOT A SKEPTIC.

I JUST THINK THERE ARE CONCERNS THAT SHOULD BE RAISED AS FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILOR PERSPECTIVE BUT THANK YOU GUYS FOR BEING HERE, COUNCILOR WU, THANK YOU JAMAL, THANK YOU AS WELL FOR BRINGING IT FORWARD.

>> THANK YOU, MADAM.

>> YOU WILL DEFER TO COUNCILOR EDWARDS.

>> I HAVE A COUPLE OF COMMENTS AND JUST WANTED TO SAY THANK YOU ALL FOR BEING HERE TODAY AND I THOUGHT YOUR TESTIMONY WAS EXTREMELY INFORMATIVE.

I ALSO THANK COUNCILOR WU AND ALSO JAMAL PROFIT FOR THIS LEADERSHIP AND GETTING THIS, I THINK IT IS A VERY IMPORTANT DISCUSSION TO HAVE ABOUT HOW WE

WOULD WANT TO BE PETITIONED BY
OUR CONSTITUENTS IN MANY CASES.
I HAVE JUST A FEW SUGGESTIONS
FOR THOUGHTS.
I ACTUALLY SUPPORT THIS.
I THINK IT IS GREAT TO HAVE THIS
KIND OF OPPORTUNITY.
I THINK 500 SIGNATURES MIGHT BE
A LITTLE BIT TOO LOW SO I WOULD
LIKE TO AGAIN REEXAMINE HOW MANY
SIGNATURES ARE REQUIRED.
I ALSO THINK IT MIGHT BE WORTH
US, JUST AS WE MENTIONED BEFORE,
A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SIGNATURES
FOR US TO RUN FOR OFFICE BUT
ALSO A CUTOFF DATE FOR US TO GET
THOSE SIGNATURES IN.
SO WE MIGHT WANT TO CONSIDER
MAYBE WITHIN THE FIRST THREE TO
FOUR MONTHS OF THE YEAR TO GET
YOUR SIGNATURES IN OR WHATEVER
TIME PERIOD WOULD BE REQUIRED
FOR SOMEONE TO GET ON THE
BALLOT, BUT THERE IS A CUTOFF
POINT OF APRIL, WHATEVER DATE
FOR ANY CITIZEN DRIVEN PETITIONS
TO BE FILED AND HAVE SIGNATURES
IN SO THAT WE CAN THEN EITHER
DISBURSE THEM APPROPRIATELY
AMONG THE COMMITTEES TO MAKE
SURE THE CITY COUNCILORS AREN'T
ALWAYS WORKING ON THIS AND GIVE
US THE TIME TO REALLY PARS OUT
THE CONVERSATIONS THAT NEED TO
SUPPORT THEM AND HOPEFULLY TO
FOLLOW UP WITH THOSE
CONSTITUENTS AND SAY OH GREAT I
SEE YOU ARE PUSHING SOMETHING ON
TRASH CANS.
I WOULD LOVE THE TIME TO TALK TO
YOU ABOUT THIS.
I FULLY SUPPORT IT ACTUALLY AND
MAYBE WE CAN DO SOMETHING
TOGETHER.
SO I THINK WE SHOULD BE A CUTOFF
DATE FOR WHEN THESE CITIZEN
DRIVEN PETITIONS CAN BE FILED
AND THEN ALSO A CUTOFF DATE FOR
THEIR HEARINGS, MAYBE EVEN
DESIGNATING CERTAIN HEARING
TIMES, ONCE A MONTH THAT WOULD,
THAT WE WOULD HAVE THOSE FILED.
SO WE ARE GOING TO HEAR ALL OF
THE X AMOUNT FROM THIS TIME, IF

WE ARE GOING TO DO THE FIRST 10
OR FIRST WHATEVER, 10, 15, I
DON'T KNOW HOW MANY WE ARE GOING
TO, HAVE BUT THIS WILL BE HEARD
THE FIRST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
WE WILL TAKE THE FIRST FIVE AND
THE NEXT FIVE UNTIL WE ARE DONE.
SO THERE IS A CERTAIN -- I THINK
THERE ARE WAYS THIS WHICH WE CAN
ORGANIZE THIS SO WE ARE DRIVING
IT AND IN A CONVERSATION THAT A
IS NOT ALL OVER THE PLACE AND
MAKING SURE TWO PETITIONS AREN'T
HAPPENING OF THE SAME THING AND
YOU GUYS CAN WORK THIS OUT AND
THEN WE DON'T NEED A HEARING ON
THE SAME THING JUST BECAUSE
SOMEONE FROM, YOU KNOW, WEST
ROXBURY WASN'T TALKING TO
SOMEONE FROM EAST BOSTON.
I ALSO THINK WE SHOULD -- I LIKE
IDEA OF ACTUALLY HAVING A
SPECIFIC COMMITTEE FOR CITIZEN
DRIVEN PETITIONS AND THAT MIGHT
BE WORTH, AGAIN TALKING ABOUT
HOW THEY COULD BE FILED IN THAT
COMMITTEE, WITH THAT PERSON OR
CITY COUNCILOR COULD COCHAIR
WITH THE OTHERWISE COMMITTEE
THAT WOULD RECEIVE THAT
COMMISSION AND HOST THOSE
COMMITTEES IN A WAY, IN AN
ORGANIZED FASHION AS I
MENTIONED,, YOU KNOW, MAYBE ONCE
A MONTH SO THEY GET THEIR FAIR
SHARE.

AND THEN I ALSO WANT TO MAKE
SURE THAT THE RESIDENCY
REQUIREMENTS IS SOMETHING THAT
IS SOMEWHAT CONCERNING TO ME AS
WELL.

I THINK COUNCILOR CAMPBELL
TALKED ABOUT, YOU KNOW, HOW LONG
IT TAKES TO BE A RESIDENT FOR
CERTAIN THINGS AND IF WE DON'T
HAVE A RESIDENT JUST IN TIME TO
SIGN A PETITION TO HAVE THE CITY
OF BOSTON DO SOMETHING AND THEN
ADVOCATE THAT RESIDENCY TO GO ON
AND DO WHATEVER THEY WANT TO DO,
BUT OTHERWISE I THINK THIS IS A
WONDERFUL WAY TO ENGAGE
COMMUNITY, IT MIGHT ALSO TO BE
FOREWARNED IT MAY ENGAGE SOME

DIFFICULT PAINFUL CONVERSATIONS
AS WELL, THERE IS NO
CONSTITUTIONAL LIMIT ON THIS,
THERE IS NOTHING THAT SAYS A
PETITION SHOULD SEGREGATE THE
SCHOOLS COULDN'T HAPPEN.
THERE IS NO PETITION HERE SAYING
THAT, YOU KNOW, WE WANT TO MAKE
SURE THAT WE CAN DISCRIMINATE
AGAINST CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS, AS
A MATTER OF FACT THEY HAVE A
PETITION ON THE BALLOT RIGHT NOW
IN NOVEMBER, SO THERE IS NO
LIMIT AND SO WE JUST NEED TO
UNDERSTAND WITH FREEDOM COMES
ALSO THESE POTENTIAL BURDENS AND
DIFFICULT CONVERSATIONS AS WELL
AND IF WE ARE MATURE, AND IF WE
ARE MATURE AS THE CITY OF BOSTON
TO STEP THAT, THAT IS FINE BUT
AGAIN THERE IS NO SAFEGUARD
HERE, MY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS
AS A WOMAN, AS A PERSON OF
COLOR, THERE, THEY ALL COULD BE
PETITIONED TO LIMIT THAT AND I
THINK WE NEED TO HAVE THAT
ACKNOWLEDGMENT AS WELL.

>> THANK YOU COUNCILOR EDWARDS,
COUNCILOR MCCARTHY.

>> WELCOME, COMMISSIONER SABINO,
MADAM CLERK, GOOD TO SEE YOU ON
THAT SIDE OF THE FLOOR KIND OF,
I USUALLY SEE YOU FROM THE OTHER
WAY.

I COULDN'T FREE WITH COUNCILOR
EDWARDS MORE, YOU KNOW, A HAMMER
IS A TOOL AND WE KEEP SAYING THE
WORD TOOL, TOOL, A HAMMER IS A
TOOL, YOU USE THAT HAMMER TO
KNOCK IN A NAIL OR BEAT SOMEBODY
OVER THE HEAD, AND THAT IS WHAT
FRIGHTENS ME THE MOST ABOUT
THIS.

WE GOT INTO THIS BUSINESS
BECAUSE WE ENJOY ENGAGING THE
COMMUNITY AND I THINK WE ALL GOT
ELECTED BECAUSE THEY AGREE THAT
WE DO ENGAGE THE COMMUNITY WELL
ENOUGH.

AND IF THEY DON'T, THEN IN TWO
YEARS, AS COUNCILOR CAMPBELL
SAID THEY CAN MAKE A STATEMENT
AND MAKE SURE WE ARE ENGAGED
WHEN WE ARE PRIVATE CITIZENS 15.

AND THAT'S IMPORTANT TO ME.
THE WHOLE PETITION THING DOES
SCARE ME AND I WILL TELL YOU
WHY.

DION AND I, THE COMMISSIONER AND
I HAVE THE HONOR OF GOING TO
SUFFOLK UNIVERSITY AND DEION IS
KIND OF CREATING IN MAY WITH A
MASTERS IN PUBLIC
ADMINISTRATION, CONGRATULATIONS,
DION, THAT IS ALSO BUT I THINK
HE TOOK THE SAME CLASS WITH ME
ABOUT PETITION AND THE REALITY
IS TO GET 500 PEOPLE TO SIGN
SOMETHING ISN'T REALLY A
DIFFICULT THING TO. DO IF I
WALK UP TO SOMEBODY AND SAY WE
ARE GOING TO HAVE A PETITION
ABOUT THE BOSTON PUBLIC SEATS TO
BE CLEANER, OF COURSE I DO, IT
MAY NOT BE ABOUT THAT.

PETITIONS ARE VERY FICKLE.
AND THEY CAN BE WORRIED, THEY
CAN BE WORDED, STATISTICS CAN BE
WARPED ANYWAY YOU WANT IT, AND
SO CAN PETITIONS. YOU KNOW,
THERE IS AN OLD STATEMENT ABOUT
STATISTICS THAT STATISTICS ARE
LIKE A LAMP POST OR A, FOR A
DRUNK GUY, A DRUNK GUY USES IT
TO LEAN ON BUT MOST PEOPLE USE
IT FOR ILLUMINATION AND THAT'S
THE PROBLEM THAT WE HAVE WITH
PETITIONS.

AND THAT'S WHAT SCARES ME.
THE OTHER POINT THAT I JUST
QUICKLY WANTED TO MAKE AND IT IS
GOING TO BE OBVIOUSLY IN THE
WORKING SESSION WE CAN CONTINUE
TO TALK ABOUT IT IS DO WE HAVE A
LIST OF ISSUES THAT OTHER TOWNS
-- THAT THEY HAVE ACTUALLY
BROUGHT?

OTHER PETITIONS IN FOUNDS
BECAUSE ANYBODY WHO GENERALLY
COMES TO US, AND A THIS MAY BE
MORE OF A QUESTION IN THE
WORKING SESSION TO CLERK FEENEY
OR EVEN COUNCILOR FLAHERTY OR
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY HERE WHO HAVE
BEEN LONGER HERE THAN FOUR YEARS
AND A FOUR MONTHS THAN ME, IS
ANYBODY EVER REALLY BEEN SHOT
DOWN THAT BROUGHT SOMETHING

STORES THE COUNCIL, HAS ANYBODY SAID NO WE ARE NOT GOING TO HAVE THAT HEARING?

SO THAT CONCERNS ME TOO.

SO I WOULD LIKE TO KNOW WHAT POSITIONS HAVE BEEN BROUGHT UP IN OTHER TOWNS AND WHAT SHAPE THE, WHAT SHAPE OF GOVERNMENT THE OTHER TOWNS HAVE, BOARD OF SELECT MEN, ARE THEY VOLUNTEER SELECT MEN?

IS THIS THEIR FULL-TIME JOB AND WHAT KIND OF IMPACT DO THEY HAVE?

AND THEN THE SECOND PIECE TO THAT QUESTION THAT WE CAN DISCUSS IS WHY -- WHY THE ELECTED OFFICIALS AT THAT TIME DIDN'T ADDRESS IT IN A BETTER WAY.

IT KIND OF FEELS LIKE WE ARE TAKING AN ASPIRIN BEFORE WE HAVE THE HEADACHE, I DON'T KNOW IF WE HAVE THE HEADACHE YET SO I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO THE WORKING SESSION.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR MCCARTHY, COUNCILOR MADAM O'MALLEY.

>> THANK YOU MR. CHAIRMAN AND GOOD AFTERNOON, LADY AND GENTLEMEN AND TO ALL OF MY COLLEAGUES AND THOSE WATCHING US HERE IN THE CHAMBER.

>> I -- A LOT OF MY QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN ASKED BUT I WANT TO PIGGYBACK ON THE QUESTIONS O CAMPBELL BEGAN, SHE ASKED ABOUT THE SIZE OF CITY AND TOWNS THAT ARE EMPLOYING THIS AS A TOOL, DO WE KNOW, DO ANY CITY OR TOWN THAT EMPLOYEES THIS RIGHT TO FREE PETITION, DO THEY, DO THEY HAVE FULL TIME LEGISLATIVE BODIES?

STAFF?

WITH CENTRAL STAFFS?

WITH WEEKLY MEETINGS?

I GUESS IS NO.

IF, NEWTON AND LAWRENCE, THE ANSWER IS NO, AND THE POINT WHICH ALSO COUNCILOR MCCARTHY BROUGHT UP, IF WE MEET 40 TIMES

A YEAR APPROXIMATELY AND IT PROBABLY IS AN AVERAGE OF ABOUT FIVE HEARING ORDERS OR ORDINANCES AT EVERY COUNCIL MEETING THAT IS ABOUT 200 A YEAR AND ADMITTEDLY ALL HAVE HEARINGS BUT THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE BUDGET HEARINGS, SO I GREENSPAN MY POINT IS, YOU KNOW, IT WAS SAID AT THE BEGINNING OF THIS HEARING THAT WE NEED TO KNOW ABOUT EVERYTHING THAT IS IMPORTANT TO PEOPLE.

I ABSOLUTELY AGREE WITH THAT. I KNOW EVERYONE IN THE ROOM AGREES WITH THAT AND IF YOU DON'T AGREE AND ABIDE BY THAT YOU AIN'T STAYING IN THIS POSITION VERY LONG.

BUT TO SUGGEST THAT A PETITION WAS -- WOULD ALLOW US TO UNDERSTAND TO WORK ON SOMETHING, I THINK NEGATES A LOT OF THE GOOD WORK THAT WE HAVE BEEN DOING THAT WE CONTINUE TO DO. MADAM CLERK, YOU ARE PROBABLY THE MOST UNIQUELY QUALIFIED PERSON TO ANSWER THIS QUESTION. YOU WORKED FOR A COUNCILOR, YOU ARE ACHIEVE OF STAFF FOR A COUNCILOR, YOU WERE THE CITY COUNCILOR, YOU ARE THE 0 COUNCIL PREPESIDENT AND NOW A CLERK, YOU SPENT MANY DECADES IN THIS. IF I WAS GOING TO SAY YOU WERE 3 WHEN YOU STARRED WITH THE CITY.

HAVE YOU EVER HAD AN ISSUE THAT YOU ARE AWARE OF THAT THE COUNCIL DIDN'T TACKLE THAT WAS IMPORTANT TO 500 OR 300 OR 50 PEOPLE?

>> CAN YOU THINK OF ONE?

>> AS I HAVE LISTENED TO THE TESTIMONY, I HAVE TRIED TO THINK OF ANY SITUATION WHERE AN ISSUE WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE BODY THAT AT LEAST ONE COUNCILOR WOULD NOT FILE FOR A HEARING OR TO HAVE SOME KIND OF A WORKING SESSION. I COULD TRY TO GO BACK AND DO A LITTLE BIT OF RESEARCH.

I DON'T KNOW QUITE WHERE I WOULD FIND THE INFORMATION, BUT TO MY

KNOWLEDGE, I CAN'T THINK OF ANY ONE SITUATION THAT SOMEONE HAS NOT, SOMEONE HAS NOT PICKED UP THE BANNER AND RAN WITH IT. SO, YOU KNOW, AND AGAIN, I THINK, YOU KNOW, SOME OF THE WONDERFUL IDEAS FROM THE TESTIMONY THAT HAS BEEN GIVEN TODAY, YOU KNOW, JUST BECAUSE IT IS DONE THIS WAY IN OTHER CITIES AND TOWNS BOSTON IS, HAS ALWAYS BEEN UNIQUE.

WE ARE BIG, THERE ARE PEOPLE IN THE SUBURB WHOSE THINK WE GET TOO MUCH OF EVERYTHING. WE KNOW THAT NOT TO BE THE CASE. BUT IT DOES NOT PROHIBIT US FROM TAKING THE INTENTION OF THIS FREE PETITION AND CREATING A SYSTEM THAT ALLOWS PEOPLE TO LITERALLY COME AND MEET WITH, YOU KNOW, WHETHER IT IS A COMMITTEE OR WHATEVER, AND SAY, YOU KNOW, THESE ARE SOME ISSUES THAT WERE, WE ARE VERY CONCERNED WITH,, YOU KNOW, HAVE SOME SORT OF AIRING OF IT BUT I PERSONALLY CAN'T THINK OF ANY AND WE HAVE HAD SOME REALLY INTERESTING HEARINGS.

I MEAN IT IS SOME WHAT OF A JOKE BUT WE HAVE -- SUNSCREEN IN OUR PARK, ADRIAN LESSON NOW A DOCTOR WAS A DERMATOLOGY SCHOOL CAME TO MY OFFICE HOURS AND SAY I WAS AT HERSHEY PARK, PENNSYLVANIA, AND THERE IS SUNSCREEN DISPENSERS, WHY DID YOU COME TO ME?

>> BECAUSE I KNOW YOU LOVE THE PARKS AND YOU ARE A GINGER. I SAID YOU ARE RIGHT ON BOTH COUNTS.

SO I AGREE WITH YOU AND AGAIN, I DON'T MEAN TO DIMINISH THE GOOD WORK OF COUNCILOR WU AND I THINK THIS IS INTERESTING AND INNOVATIVE.

I JUST DON'T KNOW IF THIS IS THE RIGHT TOOL FOR THE CITY. YOU KNOW, IN MANY, MANY, MANY TOWNS ACROSS THE COMMONWEALTH WE HAVE THE PUREST FORM OF DEMOCRACY CALLED TOWN MEETING FORM OF GOVERNMENT, IT WORKS SPLENDIDLY

IN SMALL TOWNS.
THEY LIT HAL I ARE, LITERALLY --
IT HARKENS BACK WHEN THE CITY
AND CITY AND COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED
IT WOULDN'T BE WORKABLE FOR A
CITY OF 600,000 PEOPLE AND I
THINK WE WOULDN'T BE STRAIGHT
WITH OURSELVES IF WE SUGGESTED
OTHERWISE.

SO AGAIN I APPRECIATE WHAT IS
THE INTENT OF RIGHT FOR FREE
PETITION.

I KNOW IT IS DONE TO VARYING
LEVELS OF SUCCESS AT THE STATE
LEVEL.

I BELIEVE MASS IS THE ONLY
LEGISLATURE THAT HAS THE RIGHT
OF FREE PETITION, SOME HAVE BEEN
SOME GOOD IDEAS.

OTHERS HAVE BLENDED INTO LATE
NIGHT TALK HOST MONOLOGUES THAT
IN BILLS THAT HAVE BEEN
INTRODUCED BECAUSE A STATE REP
OR LEGISLATOR HAS TO DO IT.
I THINK WE SHOULD INCREASE CIVIC
ENGAGEMENT.

I AM NOT SURE THIS IS IS THE
RIGHT WAY TO GO FORWARD FOR THE
CITY BUT I AM LOOKING FORWARD ON
WORKING THIS IN 0 FUTURE WORKING
SESSIONS.

>> CHAIRMAN, WOULD YOU LIKE TO
BE RECOGNIZED.

>> I WANT TO SAY THANK YOU TO
COUNCILOR WU FOR HER LEADERSHIP
ON THIS ISSUE AND I LOOK FORWARD
TO LEARNING MORE ABOUT THE
ISSUE, HOW THE SYNTAX, THE
RESIDENTS, HOW THIS IMPACTS THE
RESIDENTS OF BOSTON BUT THANK
YOU TO COUNCILOR WU FOR HER
STRONG LEADERSHIP ON THIS ISSUE.
THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR FLYNN.
COUNCILOR BAKER.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR.

I AGREE WITH THE COMMENT FROM
COUNCILOR O'MALLEY AND COUNCILOR
MCCARTHY I THINK IT IS PROBABLY
OUR JOB TO GO TO THE PETITIONS
THAT COME, GO THROUGH THE
PETITIONS THAT COME IN AND AS I
WAS GOING THROUGH THIS, I WAS
THINKING IF ANYBODY HAD COME TO

ME AND SOMETHING WAS IMPORTANT TO THEM I WOULD THINK I WOULD FILE IT, BUT NOT SAYING THAT I WOULD ALSO BE OPEN TO SOMETHING LIKE THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT SUGGESTED AND ALSO LYDIA HAD SOME REALLY GOOD IDEAS.

I THINK THERE MAY BE -- THERE MAY BE SOME KIND OF LIKE PATHWAY OR STRUCTURE FOR US TO SET UP TO HEAR THEM SO PEOPLE WHO GET IN FRONT OF OUR COMMITTEES, IF PEOPLE WANT -- I MEAN, I DON'T REALLY LIKE TO HAVE MY HAND FORCED HERE, IF YOU PUT SOMETHING IN MY COMMITTEE NOW I HAVE TO HAVE A HEARING IN X AMOUNT OF WEEKS, WHATEVER IT IS, ALTHOUGH I WOULD BE OPEN TO BEING FORCED TO HAVE A MEETING WITH SOMEBODY.

OKAY, IF THEY FILE SOMETHING WITH THE CLERK, AND THEY WANT SOME OF YOUR TIME AND SOMETHING LIKE THAT, YOU KNOW, BUT THANK YOU, MICHELLE, THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME AND REALLY GOOD POINTS, GOOD HEARING TODAY. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR.

>> IF I MAY, I AM SORRY, JUST I DID REMEMBER ONE.

AT ONE POINT, WHEN I CAN TELL YOU BRO DEN STREET IN DORCHESTER IN DISTRICT 3 WAS -- IT WAS SUCH A SCARY PLACE.

I MEAN, IT WAS -- THERE WAS GUNFIRE 24 HOURS A DAY, JUST DRUGS, EVERYTHING.

AND I AS A COUNCILOR PROPOSED A CURFEW.

I CAN TELL YOU THAT WAS ONE OF THE UGLIEST PERIODS I EVER HAD SERVING ON THIS BODY.

BUT THAT IS HOW BAD THINGS HAD GOTTEN.

WE WERE ACTUALLY AFRAID FOR YOUNG PEOPLE TO BE OUT ON THE STREETS AFTER A CERTAIN TIME. AND IT DID NOT PASS, BUT IT WAS WORKING WITH BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT AND -- BUT THE INTERESTING THING IS, IT REALLY ENGAGED THE COMMUNITY AND SO ALTHOUGH THE CURFEW WAS NEVER --

WHICH, YOU KNOW, I LOOK BACK NOW AND I SAY REALLY IT WASN'T THAT GREAT OF AN IDEA BUT I THINK WE WERE ALSO DESPERATE BECAUSE WE A HAD 16, 17, 13-YEAR-OLD KIDS BEING KILLED, I MEAN, IT WAS JUST AWFUL, AND -- BUT IT REALLY ENGAGED THE COMMUNITY IN TERMS OF THAT WE CAN DO AND HAVING WALKING BEATS ON BODEN STREET IN THAT AREA. YOU KNOW, SO, YOU KNOW, I JUST -- I THINK THIS IS WONDERFUL WORK AND SOME OF THE IDEAS TODAY I THINK ARE FABULOUS BECAUSE WE ARE DIFFERENT AND, YOU KNOW, MAYBE THIS WONDERFUL DISCUSSION WILL BRING ABOUT A PROCESS THAT IS SO FAIR TO THE PEOPLE WHO MAYBE AREN'T QUITE AS ENGAGED, WHO ARE NEW TO THE CITY AND SAY, HOW DO I BECOME ENGAGED AND THIS IS A GREAT VEHICLE, SO, THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU VERY MUCH, FOR THIS PANEL AND WE HAVE -- PUBLIC TESTIMONY, I SEE JAMAL CRAWFORD IS IN THE AUDIENCE AND IF JAMAL CAN MAKE HIS WAY OVER TO -- IF THERE IS ANYONE ELSE HERE WHO WISH TO OFFERS PUBLIC TESTIMONY NOW IS THE TIME TO DO SO AND FEEL FREE TO QUEUE UP RIGHT BEHIND JAMAL.

>> JAMAL, WELCOME, STATE YOUR NAME AND AFFILIATION FOR THE RECORD.

>> ABSOLUTELY.

JAMAL CRAWFORD, COMMUNITY RESIDENT AND ACTIVIST FROM ROXBURY COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER, THE BLACKSTONEIAN.

>> .. FIRST OF ALL, I WOULD LIKE TO START OFF WITH COMPLIMENTS, BECAUSE OFTEN TIME WHEN I AM IN THE CITY OR DEALING WITH GOVERNMENT, IT IS OFTEN A COMPLAINT, AND SO I WANT TO EXTEND A COMPLIMENT TO YOU FROM THE LAST TESTIMONY.

YOU REALLY WOWED ME WITH YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF, YOU KNOW, THE CITY AND THE INNER WORKINGS AND I USED TO WORK WITH YOU ON THE COUNCIL AND I HAVE SEEN YOU WORK

AS A COUNCIL AND A CLERK, AND I THINK THE INFORMATION AND JUST THE WAY YOU WERE DISCUSSING IT SHOWED A LEVEL OF THOUGHTFULNESS THAT I THINK IS EVEN BIGGER THAN THE JOB THAT YOU HOLD, IF YOU WILL.

IT SEEMS LIKE YOU REALLY HAVE A CARE AND CONCERN FOR YOUR JOB AND CITY AND I APPRECIATE THAT. AND ALSO TOO THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT AND COMMISSIONER IRISH, THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT IS ONE OF THOSE OFFICES IN THE CITY I NEVER HAD A PROBLEM WITH, YOU KNOW, AND THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT FOR YEARS HAS BEEN OPERATING WITH PROFESSIONALISM, WHEN I RAN FOR OFFICE ANSWERING QUESTIONS, UPON QUESTIONING AND JUST ALWAYS TAKING THE TIME TO MAKE SURE THAT EVERYTHING WAS ABOVEBOARD AND YOU HAVE CONTINUED IN THAT TRADITION AND I THANK YOU FOR THAT AND I THANK YOU FOR THE TESTIMONY IN THIS REGARD.

AND LIKEWISE, THROUGH THE COUNCIL, FOR, THANK YOU, COUNCIL FOR HAVING THIS 0 CONVERSATION, AGREEMENTS, DISAGREEMENTS, QUESTIONS, CONCERNS.

I THINK THAT COUNCILOR MCCARTHY SAID WE COULD BE TAKING AN ASPIRIN BEFORE WE HAVE THE HEADACHE.

I THINK THAT IS A GOOD THING. SEE, AN OUNCE OF PREVENTION IS WORTH A POUND OF CURE, SO I THINK THAT THIS WILL ALLOW US TO HAVE SOME DIALOGUE THAT MIGHT GET IN FRONT OF SOME ISSUES BEFORE THEY BECOME LARGER ISSUES AND MORE DIFFICULT TO MANAGE.

I WANT PEOPLE TO NOT REALLY VIEW THIS AS IN COMPETITION WITH THE NATURE OF THE ADVOCACY AND THE COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT THAT YOU DO, BUT RATHER AS A COMPLIMENT TO IT.

BECAUSE I THINK THAT, YOU KNOW, WHILE YOU ARE IN THE DISTRICT, WHETHER IT IS DISTRICTS OR CITY WIDE CONSTANTLY MEETING WITH

PEOPLE, GOD KNOWS HOW MANY
COMMUNITY MEETINGS AND AFFAIRS
AND EVENTS BUT YOU JUST DON'T
GET TO REACH EVERYBODY AND THERE
ARE SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE AVERSE
TO COMING IN HERE, A FORUM LIKE,
THIS SOME PEOPLE WHO ARE AVERSE
TO GOING TO THE EVENT BUT THEY
HAVE A GREAT IDEA.

THEY HAVE A GREAT ISSUE AND THEY
HAVE A KNOWLEDGE OF THIS ISSUE
THAT I THINK WOULD BE SERVED BY
ALLOWING AN OPEN MECHANISM TO
ONCE AGAIN GET THE BEST IDEAS
AND THIS IS JUST NOT ABOUT A
COMPLAINT BOX WHERE PEOPLE JUST
ARE SAYING THIS IS WHAT IS WRONG
WITH THE CITY.

WE WANT TO DO SOMETHING.

I THINK IF WE DEPEND ON OUR
CITIZENRY AND RESIDENTS HERE,
THAT YOU WOULD FIND A WEALTH OF
KNOWLEDGE.

WE HAVE PEOPLE HERE WHO ARE
TECHNICAL GENIUSES, SCIENTIFIC
GENIUSES IN HEALTH AND EDUCATION
AND YOU NAME IT. AND I THINK
THAT THE RIGHT TO FREE PETITION
IN THE CITY OF BOSTON WOULD KIND
OF CULL THE BEST IDEAS FROM
AMONGST THOSE WHO, FIRST OF ALL,
YOU ARE NOT GOING TO GET IDEAS
FROM PEOPLE WHO DON'T CARE
BECAUSE OF THE VERY NATURE OF
THEM NOT CARING THEY ARE NOT
GOING TO CARE AND GO THROUGH IT.
SO WHAT YOU ARE GOING TO DO IS
GET STUFF FROM PEOPLE WHO ARE
PASSIONATE AND SOME OF THE
CONCERNS ABOUT, YOU KNOW, THE
LEGITIMACY OF THE ISSUE, I WAS
JUST SAYING FOR COMMISSIONER
IRISH BEFOREHAND, YEAH, IF
SOMEBODY SAYS WE SHOULD HAVE A
HEARING ON, YOU KNOW, WE NEED A
UFO LANDING PAD IN FRANKLIN
PARK, YEAH THAT SHOULD BE OFF
THE TABLE, SO THERE SHOULD BE
SOME ACTUAL VALID POINT THERE,
IT SHOULD NOT BE DUPLICATIVE OF
OTHER EFFORTS OR OTHER HEARINGS.
BUT ALSO TOO THERE SHOULD BE --
AND MAYBE THERE COULD BE SOME
PRIOR CONVERSATION BEFOREHAND

WITH, WHERE THESE PEOPLE ARE REACHING OUT TO COUNCILORS DIRECTLY, I CAN REMEMBER A COUPLE OF TIMES WHERE IDEAS THAT WERE BROUGHT FORTH FROM THE COMMUNITY THAT WERE NOT WILDLY MET WITH OPEN ARMS FROM THE CITY COUNCIL AND PRIMARILY THAT IS BASED ON I THINK PERSONALITY AND ALSO GEOGRAPHY.

A GREAT EXAMPLE, MCCARTHY DID, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNOW THIS, SUNSCREEN IS NOT A BIG DEAL IN MY COMMUNITY, I DON'T KNOW IF YOU KNOW THAT, NEVER WORE SUNSCREEN IN MY LIFE BUT SOMEBODY BROUGHT IT TO YOU, RESONATED WITH YOU, YOU CARRIED IT THROUGH AND IT WENT FORWARD: I WOULD SUBMIT THERE ARE ISSUES LIKE THAT FOR MY COMMUNITY BUT SOME PEOPLE ARE NOT HEARING IT THE SAME WAY.

MIGHT NOT APPLY TO EVERYBODY, SOME PEOPLE SAY, IT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME BUT IT WOULD ALLOW A PLATFORM FOR THESE IDEAS TO BE BROUGHT FORTH.

AND ALSO AS YOU SAID HARKENING BACK TO THE BEGINNING, YOU KNOW, OF WHEN THE COUNTRY WAS FOUNDED IN BOSTON AND MASSACHUSETTS AND YOU SEE THESE OLD MOVIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU KNOW, PEOPLE ARE HAVING OPEN DEBATES ON THE FLOOR.

I THINK THE RIGHT TO FREE PETITION OPENS THAT UP TO THE CITIZENRY, EVERYBODY HAS NOT HAD THE GOOD FORTUNE TO BE ELECTED BY THE COMMUNITY AND I THINK THAT IF WE LISTEN AND OPEN UP THE FLOOR TO MORE VOICES I THINK IT IS BETTER FOR ALL OF US, THE LAST THING I WOULD SAY IN TERMS OF SIGNATURES AND ALL OF THIS TYPE OF THING, HOW IT IS GOING TO WORK, WE WOULD HAVE TO DEFER TO THE EXPERTS, MADAM CLERK AND COMMISSIONER IRISH, FROM ELECTIONS, SO THAT WE WANT IT TO TO GO AS SMOOTHLY AS POSSIBLE. WE DON'T WANT TO CREATE MORE PROBLEMS, YOU KNOW, DATABASING

AND STUFF LIKE THAT.

I WOULD HOPE WE WOULD BE ABLE TO BRING IN THE DO IT OFFICE AS WELL, THE THAT MAY BE ABLE TO BRING SOME MORE TECHNOLOGY TO BEAR IN THAT REGARD.

BUT THE ONE THING THAT I WANTED TO SAY ABOUT THE SIGNATURES.

500 SIGNATURES YOU ARE NOT RUNNING FOR OFFICE, BUT THESE ARE 500 SIGNATURES THAT ARE NOT NECESSARILY VERIFIED.

THEY ARE NOT ON A VOTERS LIST. SO THAT FIRST YOU A WIDE APPEAL SO IT KIND OF GIVES YOU AND TAKES A LITTLE AWAY FOR HOW DIFFICULT IT MAY BE FOR A PERSON.

COUNCILOR MCCARTHY SAID GETTING SIGNATURES FOR A PETITION IS NOT THAT DIFFICULT, ONCE AGAIN I GUESS IT WOULD DEPEND AND IF YOU ARE USING MANIPULATION AND NOT TELLING THE STORY, THAT ALWAYS HAPPENS, BUT IT HAPPENS IN ELECTIONS ANYWAY.

PEOPLE WHO DON'T UNDERSTAND ISSUES THAT ARE ON THE BALLOT, PEOPLE DON'T REALLY HAVE A GOOD SENSE OF WHAT CANDIDATES ARE GOING ON OR WHAT ISSUES ARE GOING ON, I MEAN THERE ARE CERTAIN THINGS THAT ARE, WE ARE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO PREVENT FROM HAPPENING IN SOCIETY SO I WOULD SAY LET'S NOT WORRY ABOUT THAT AND LET'S LOOK TOWARDS THE BEST OF IT WE WANT TO CREATE THE BESTING MECHANISM TO BRING NORTH THE BEST IDEAS THAT ARE NOT CRAZY AND DO YOU MEAN KA KILLING A, DUPLICATING OTHER EFFORTS AND THE SIGNATURE BASIS I THINK I LIKED IT BETTER AT 250.

BE THAT A PERSON WHO COMES FROM ONE PARTICULAR COMMUNITY, MY DISTRICT, LET'S SAY DISTRICT SEVEN IF YOU IN THE DISTRICT I THINK YOU SHOULD ONLY BE BOUND BY MAYBE THE SIGNATURES TO DISTRICT THAT YOU LIVE IN, NOT BY THE CITY WIDE THING AND PLASTLY I WILL SAY ON THAT, BECAUSE THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A

PERSON WHO IS RUNNING FOR OFFICE
AND A REGULATE CITIZEN WHO HAS
AN IDEA IS, A PERSON WHO IS
RUNNING FOR OFFICE GENERALLY
RAISES MONEY, OPENS A BANK
ACCOUNT, GENERALLY HAS EITHER
STAFF OR VOLUNTEERS, AND
GENERALLY HAS SOME SORT OF BASE,
THEY MIGHT HAVE BEEN PRIOR IN
OFFICE OR A JOB OR WHATEVER, AND
I THINK IT MIGHT BE UNFAIR
THRESHOLD AND COMPARISON FOR
JUST AVERAGE JOE OR SUSIE
CITIZEN, PARTICULARLY IF THAT
CITIZEN IS A YOUTH OR AN ELDER
OR FROM A DISENFRANCHISED
COMMUNITY THAT MAKES DOING
ANYTHING MORE DIFFICULT THAN
OTHERS.

I THINK THAT WAS IT.

I BELIEVE THERE WAS ONE MORE
POINT BUT I CAN'T THINK OF IT
NOW.

THE RIGHT TO FREE PETITION I
BELIEVE IS THE BEST THING THAT
WE HAVE FOR BOSTON TO GET BETTER
IDEAS FROM THE COMMUNITY AND
PLEASE, LET'S NOT LOOK AT THIS
AS ANY BESMIRCH. ON THE CITY
COUNCIL LET'S JUST OPEN IT UP TO
MORE PEOPLE. TO ME, THE MORE
THE MERRIER.

ALL RIGHT.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

>> THANK YOU, JAMAL .. ANYONE
ELSE WISHING TO OFFER PUBLIC
TESTIMONY AT THIS POINT?

>> SEEING AND HEARING NO
ADDITIONAL DESIRE, THE FINAL
WRAPUP, COUNCILOR JAMIE.

>> THANK YOU, MR. CHAIR.

>> JANEY.

>> SO I JUST, YOU KNOW, WANTED
TO SAY THANK YOU TO COUNCILOR
WU, TO MR. CRAWFORD FOR HIS
GREAT TESTIMONY JUST NOW.

I THINK THIS IS A VERY IMPORTANT
ISSUE TO CONTINUE TO DISCUSS.

I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO ANY
WORKING SESSIONS AS I SAID
EARLIER, YOU KNOW, PUTTING THE
POWER IN THE HANDS OF THE PEOPLE
I THINK IS A REALLY GOOD THING.

I THINK IT IS A DEMOCRATIC HINGE

TO. DO .. I THINK THERE ARE
QUESTIONS AS YOU HEARD FROM THIS
DISCUSSION THAT I AM HOPEFUL
THAT WE CAN WORK OUT.

I THINK I HAVE TAKEN FOR GRANTED
AS SOMEONE WHO HAS BEEN A
COMMUNITY ORGANIZER WHO FOUND IT
VERY EASY TO WORK WITH PAST
DISTRICT COUNCILORS WHO SAT IN
THE SEAT I AM SITTING IN NOW,
WHETHER COUNCILOR JACKSON OR
COUNCILOR TURNER TO KIND OF
ORGANIZE.

LOOK, I DID IT ALL THE TIME, BUT
MY EXPERIENCE AND THE EXPERIENCE
OF ORDINARY RESIDENTS COULD BE
VERY DIFFERENT, AND SO I THINK,
YOU KNOW, 0 CONTINUING THIS
CONVERSATION TO SEE HOW IT COULD
WORK MAKES SENSE.

SO I APPRECIATE, AGAIN, THE
OPPORTUNITY.

THANK YOU.

>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR JANEY.

>> ANY OTHER COLLEAGUES?

>> COUNCILOR, THE CHAIR
RECOGNIZES ANNISSA ESSAIBI
GEORGE.

>> AND THROUGH THE CHAIR TO THE
MAKER I AM CURIOUS ABOUT, I
THINK IT WILL PROBABLY FLUSH OUT
DURING THE WORKING SESSION, THE
VARIETY OF SIGNATURE
REQUIREMENTS AND THEN ALSO
CONSIDERING THE REGISTERED VOTER
QUESTION THAT CAME UP AND THEN
ALSO THE AGE OF THE SIGNATORY,
BECAUSE I THINK WE THINK ABOUT
EDUCATION ISSUES, WE THINK ABOUT
ISSUES THAT MAY -- MIGHT PERTAIN
SPECIFICALLY TO YOU, YOUTH, HOW
DO WE MAKE SURE THEY HAVE THEIR
VOICE HEARD.

THEY ARE ALSO RECOGNIZED THAT A
DOCUMENT THAT IS BEING SIGNED
FOR THE RIGHT TO FREE PETITION
DOES CARRY A SIGNIFICANT WEIGHT
TO IT, IF IT WERE TO REQUIRE US
TO HOLD A HEARING ON IT SO I
THINK THAT WILL ALL COME OUT IN
THE WORKING SESSION BUT I THINK
THE NUMBERS QUESTIONS ON HOW
MANY SIGNATURES TO REQUIRE, THEY
ARE SORT OF THE, I GUESS, THE

IDENTITY OF THAT -- OF THE PERSON WHO IS SIGNING, WHETHER THEY NEED TO BE REGISTERED TO VOTE OR SOMEHOW OFFICIALLY CAPTURED IN OUR LOCAL CENSUS, FOR IDENTIFICATION PURPOSES. AND THEN ALSO ANY AGE REQUIREMENTS THAT WE WOULD HAVE ON THAT ON, YOU KNOW, CREATING A VALID SIGNATURE.

>> SO I WANT TO THANK EVERYONE FOR ALL OF YOUR FEEDBACK. I THINK WE ARE ALL AGING FOR THE SAME THING, AND THIS IS REALLY HELPFUL AND I FEEL GOOD ABOUT THE NEXT STEPS IN MOVING THROUGH THE WORKING SESSION.

JUST TO BE TOTALLY EXPLICIT ABOUT WHY THE SIGNATURE REQUIREMENT WAS RESIDENT AND NOT REGISTERED VOTER, IT WAS INTENTIONAL TO TRY TO GET, TO MAKE SURE THAT WE ARE ENGAGING ALL OF OUR RESIDENTS, EVEN THOSE WHO ARE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE BY CHOICE OR ARE NOT REGISTERED TO VOTE BECAUSE THEY ARE NOT CITIZENS.

SO WANTING TO MAKE SURE WE ARE INCLUDING OUR UNDOCUMENTED IMMIGRANT RESIDENTS WHO ARE NOT ABLE TO REGISTER TO VOTE, MAKE SURE WE ARE INCLUDING PEOPLE WHO ARE YOUNGER THAN VOTING AGE, SO I THINK THERE IS SOME QUESTION THERE ABOUT IF THE CENSUS PICKS UP AT 17 WHAT DO WE DO IF IT IS SOMEONE TRYING TO FIND YOUNGER OR SOME PROVISION FOR THAT BUT I FEEL ALL OF THESE DETAILS WE WILL FIGURE OUT IN WORKING SESSION, BUT THE GOAL IS TO CREATE A MECHANISM THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO PARTICIPATE IN EVERY WAY, WHETHER IT IS ENGAGING WITH THE COUNCIL, SIGNING UP FOR CITY'S OFFICIAL CENSUS AND GETTING THE INFORMATION TO US THAT WAY AND THEN HOPEFULLY PARTICIPATING IN FUTURE ELECTIONS AND GETTING MORE AND MORE INVOLVED AND MAYBE RUNNING FOR OFFICE AFTER THAT A TOO.

SO I AM VERY GRATEFUL TO
EVERYONE FOR THEIR TIME.
>> THANK YOU, COUNCILOR WU FOR
YOUR EFFORTS AND THANK YOU FOR
THE ELECTION DEPARTMENT, IRISH
AND THE REST OF YOU FOR YOUR
PUBLIC AND TO THE PUBLIC FOR
PARTICIPATING AND SHOWING UP.
AND WITH RESPECT TO DOCKET 0174,
AN ORDINANCE REGARDING THE RIGHT
TO FREE PETITION, THE COMMITTEE
ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS IS
ADJOURNED.