



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS SERVICES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

- WHEREAS:** According to Boston's Language and Communications Access program, 12.8% of Boston residents identify as having at least one disability. This include experiencing difficulties in self-care, hearing, vision, independent living, cognition, and walking; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston has undertaken measures to ensure that persons with disabilities will have access to various services, with the Mayor's Disabilities Commission focusing on increasing access to opportunities and promoting equity for those with disabilities; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City Council also passed an ordinance establishing language and communication services in 2016, creating the Language and Communications Access program to make sure that all City departments have translation and interpretation services for non-English speaking residents and residents with disabilities; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) is a federal act that ensures that all disabled people are entitled to the same services as every other American; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The annual Disabilities Commission report addresses ADA accessibility improvements to City Hall and public rights of way, in addition to language access and services for those that are hearing or visually impaired; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston has greatly improved access for people with disabilities, and requires facilities and public ways to be ADA compliant, but there are still gaps of service that exist; *and*
- WHEREAS:** It is the responsibility of our City, State, and Federal officials to ensure that all residents have access to services no matter the condition of their health, abilities, or impairments.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss opportunities to support the ongoing work of the Disabilities Commission, the Communications and Language Access program and how the City can continue to make progress in ensuring equal access for all persons with disabilities. Representatives from the City of Boston and other interested parties shall be invited to testify.