



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

October 19, 2020

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval a Home Rule Petition to the General Court entitled: "Petition for a Special Law Re: Hiring Preference for Boston Resident-Graduates for the Boston Police Department." This special act would amend state Civil Service rules that govern police department hiring by establishing a new preference for Boston residents who graduated from the Boston Public Schools, METCO, or any schools in the Boston Compact, which includes charter and parochial schools in our city.

This step was among the recommendations of the Boston Police Reform Task Force and will build on the success of our Police Cadet program by developing a new pipeline for diverse Boston residents into law enforcement careers.

Existing state law provides preferences for disabled veterans, veterans and the widows or widowed mothers of veterans. This special act will create a new preference category for Boston Police candidates who graduated from any public or private secondary school located in Boston or from any secondary school as a participant in the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program, and who was a Boston resident at the time of graduation from high school. As you are no doubt aware, in 2015, I reinstated the Boston Police Cadet Program, which has successfully grown our pipeline of diverse talent. I am confident that these recommended changes to state civil service laws will build on that success.

I urge your Honorable Body to support this special act establishing a new hiring preference for Boston residents and graduates, to take another important step in ensuring a Police Department that is diverse and reflective of the communities it serves.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDERED: That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this Order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause One (1) of Section Eight (8) of Article Two (2), as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, to the end that legislation be adopted precisely as follows, except for clerical or editorial changes of form only:

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: PREFERENCE FOR BOSTON HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES FOR THE POSITION OF POLICE OFFICER IN THE CITY OF BOSTON.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1.

In this act, all terms shall have the same meaning as those terms defined in section 1 of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws.

SECTION 2.

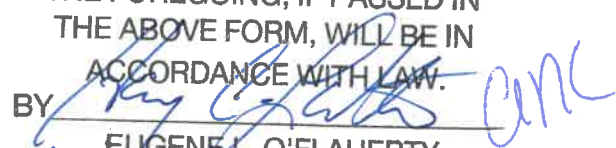
Notwithstanding section 26 of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws or any other general or special law to the contrary, when the administrator creates eligible lists for original appointment to the position of police officer in the city of Boston pursuant to chapter thirty-one of the General Laws, the names of persons who pass examinations for original appointment to a position of police officer in the city of Boston shall be placed on the eligible list in the following order: (1) disabled veterans, in the order of their respective standings; (2) veterans, in the order of their respective standings; (3) widows or widowed mothers of veterans who were killed in action or died from a service connected disability incurred in wartime service, in the order of their respective standings; (4) persons who graduated from any public or private secondary school located in Boston or from any public secondary school as participants in the Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity (METCO) program, and who were Boston residents at the time of graduation from high school, in the order of their respective standings; (5) all others, in the order of their respective standings.

The administrator may require an applicant to provide information, in a form deemed sufficient by the administrator, to demonstrate the school from which that applicant graduated and whether the applicant was a Boston resident at that time.

Nothing in this act shall amend, modify, or repeal the Boston Police Commissioner's authority under St. 1978, c. 174, as amended, to appoint individuals to the police force in the city of

Boston from the cadet program without certification from an eligible list prepared under chapter thirty-one of the General Laws. In addition, where the Boston Police Commissioner has provided the administrator with the written request allowed by section 58 of chapter thirty-one of the General Laws, the administrator shall, when certifying names from said eligible list for original appointment to the police force for the city of Boston, continue to place the names of all persons who have resided in said city or town for one year immediately prior to the date of examination ahead of the name of any person who has not so resided.

SECTION 3. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.
BY 
EUGENE L. O'FLAHERTY
CORPORATION COUNSEL