

Offered by Councilor Kenzie Bok, Breadon, Flaherty, Baker and Flynn



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING RECYCLING, COMPOST, AND WASTE SERVICES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS:* The Public Works Department (PWD) collects and disposes of all residential recyclables, trash, and leaf and yard waste in the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS:* PWD hosts drop-off days for hazardous waste and household electronics, as well as swap shops for recycling paint and motor oil, and is responsible for all composting and textile recycling programs in the city; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Constituents regularly express confusion regarding these services provided by the city, for example, how and where they may recycle batteries; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Greater education and use of these programs is essential for increasing their use by residents, ensuring that household waste is disposed of in the most sustainable way, and reaching the City of Boston's Zero Waste goals; *and*
- WHEREAS:* As the volume of "e-waste" and demand for rare earth metals only continues to increase, it is imperative that the City develop increased capacity to recycle these materials in a clear and convenient way conducive to resident participation; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Diverting recyclable or compostable materials from landfills not only has environmental benefits but can be financially beneficial if items are sorted and contamination is minimal; *and*
- WHEREAS:* The expansion of Boston's composting pilot Project Oscar, and the implementation of a pilot for curbside residential composting, has been repeatedly delayed; *and*
- WHEREAS:* Seattle, Washington has developed a cost-effective and sustainable municipal solid waste management system that encourages diversion from landfills and includes curbside composting; *and*
- WHEREAS:* In Hooksett, New Hampshire, the change from single-stream recycling to resident-sorted recycling has had financial and social benefits; *and*

*WHEREAS:* As Boston's trash and recycling costs increase, more financially beneficial approaches should be considered; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

*ORDERED:* That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the current state of recycling, compost, and other waste services in the City of Boston, as well as strategies for their improvement, and that representatives from the Public Works Department, the Environment Department, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 28, 2022