

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, HENRY SANTANA, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, WEBER, WORRELL, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS WAYS TO PROVIDE CRITICAL PUBLIC SAFETY SUPPORT AND ADDRESS QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES RELATING TO THE CRISIS AT MASS AND CASS

- WHEREAS:** Since the closure of the city's Long Island recovery campus in the fall of 2014, and the eventual shutdown of the campsite on Atkinson Street in 2023, the opioid crisis and homelessness have driven people to the intersection of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard, where those battling substance use disorder can seek methadone treatment or a bed at city-run shelters; *and*
- WHEREAS:** While the tents are gone, hundreds of people are gathering daily throughout the area, often engaging in open drug dealing, drug use, and other illicit activities throughout South End, Roxbury, Dorchester, and South Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS:** As violence and illegal activities still continue to impact these neighborhoods, the Boston Police, and the Coordinated Response Team are working with Suffolk County District Attorney's office and other state agencies to address these issues; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Mass and Cass continues to be a humanitarian crisis, and it is impacting the quality of life for residents and businesses, with piles of trash, including used needles and human feces scattering neighborhoods miles out; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There is an urgent need to reevaluate the current strategies in addressing the public safety, quality of life, neighborhood services, and public health issues related to the situation in Mass and Cass and in the impacted neighborhood of South End, Roxbury, Dorchester, and South Boston. We need to identify ways to improve the City's response to the opioid crisis, drug dealing activities, and homelessness; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to address this humanitarian crisis, public safety and public health emergency, and the critical need to enhance city response and services related to this area. Representatives from the Mayor's Office, Boston Public Health Commission, Police Department, Public Works, Inspectional Services Department, the Coordinated Response Team, elected officials, community leaders, and any other interested parties shall be invited to attend