



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Offered by Councilor Kim Janey

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FACING SMALL BUSINESSES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: The City of Boston is experiencing an unprecedented economic boom, yet too many residents and small businesses are not benefiting from that boom; and,

WHEREAS: Small businesses are critical to the economy, culture, and vibrancy of neighborhoods within the City of Boston. 40,000 small businesses in the City of Boston generate \$15 billion in revenue and create 170,000 jobs; and,

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has an interest in lowering barriers for businesses to open and grow by providing small business owners with advising and education, technical assistance, and financial support. The City's Small Business Plan, published in March of 2016, outlines the progress that has been made in this area, and the work that remains; and,

WHEREAS: Minority residents make up 53% of the city's population, yet only comprise 32% of business owners. They generate \$2.7 billion in revenue and employ 32,400 people. These businesses are critical to wealth creation and job opportunities for people of color, yet they often lack access to the capital and face significant barriers to obtaining funding; and,

WHEREAS: It is increasingly difficult for small businesses to afford to remain in their communities and for new businesses to open due to rapidly rising rents; and,

WHEREAS: Small businesses owners are required to obtain dozens of permits, including for fire safety, health code compliance, food service, occupancy, entertainment, and liquor, which creates an onerous burden. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the barriers to and opportunities for small businesses in the City of Boston. Representatives from the City of Boston and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: **February 9, 2018**