

*Offered by Councilors Andrea J. Campbell and Annissa Essaibi-George*



**City Of Boston  
CITY COUNCIL**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND EIGHTEEN**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE PLANS TO RECONSTRUCT THE LONG ISLAND BRIDGE AND REOPEN SERVICE FACILITIES**

WHEREAS The opioid epidemic profoundly impacts Massachusetts and the City of Boston; and

WHEREAS Overdose is the leading cause of accidental death in the Commonwealth claiming on average six lives daily; and

WHEREAS Between 2000-2016, Boston lost 611 people to opioid overdose, the largest number of victims in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; and

WHEREAS Long Island once played a prominent role in Boston’s recovery landscape providing 47 residential addiction-treatment beds for women at Joelyn’s Family Home, 60 detox treatment beds weekly for roughly 100 people, and other recovery programs servicing up to as many as 300, and accounting for more than 40 percent of the City’s detox spaces at Andrew House; and

WHEREAS On October 8, 2014 all recovery and homelessness programs on Long Island were evacuated due to imminent failure of the only bridge linking the Island to the mainland; and

WHEREAS Some services were relocated and replaced, and new facilities and programs, including a first-of-its-kind Office of Recovery Services, were launched to address the growing substance use disorder epidemic; and

WHEREAS Mayor Martin J. Walsh announced on January 1, 2018, that the City will rebuild the Long Island Bridge in order to create, on the island, a comprehensive, long-term addiction recovery campus; and

WHEREAS Planning, permitting and building a new bridge and long-term addiction recovery campus will take time and funding; NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED That the appropriate Boston City Council committee convene one or more public hearings to explore:

- (1) Accounting by the City of Boston and other agencies regarding the current status of the bridge, the island and its facilities since its termination on October 8, 2014; and,

- (2) The City of Boston's current plans to revitalize the Long Island Bridge and create a new recovery continuum of care on Long Island, including funding mechanisms, permitting needs, and timeline; AND BE IT FURTHER

ORDERED: That the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Department of Health and Human Services, Massachusetts Department of Health, Boston Inspectional Services Department, Boston Emergency Medical Services, Boston Police Department Drug Unit, the Mayor's Office of Public Safety, and the Boston Office of Budget Administration along with other interested parties be invited to provide testimony.

Filed on: January 24, 2018