

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA, KENZIE BOK, ARROYO, BAKER, BREADON, COLETTA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FLAHERTY, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA, MURPHY, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING WINTER PLACEMAKING AND BOSTON AS A ‘WINTER CITY’

- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston tends to experience a shift in programming and liveliness during the winter season, when residents bundle up indoors to avoid icy roads or cold temperatures; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Cold weather impacts business so drastically that IBM Global Business Services sells weather data directly to business clients who need to make crucial decisions on whether or not to stay open; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In 2020, Bench Consulting, in partnership with the Barr Foundation, discussed a City’s role in celebrating the season through programming, resources, and economic opportunities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** While cold weather, snow, and other winter elements transform the City of Boston for about four months of the year, there are new opportunities for outdoor exploration and economic activity that is unique to Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston has the potential to become a ‘*Winter City*,’ one that has the tools to embrace the winter season, create infrastructure for economic and recreational activity all year long, bring economic activity back to neighborhood streets and downtowns to support culture-building; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Infrastructure that is built to embrace winter elements has many benefits, including increasing outdoor recreation, improving mental health, using public spaces for community gatherings; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Funding resources and action plans for creating a lively, active, safe, and supportive Winter City can be seen in places such as Eau Claire, WI; Buffalo, NY; Edmonton, Canada; and Burlington, VT; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These cities and towns implement a variety of infrastructure changes and programming, including creating an accessible coat bank, using snow as a building material, transforming streets, parking lots, and community buildings for winter use, transforming City trails for cross-country skiing and outdoor recreation, highlighting local artists, and celebrating the uniqueness of the season; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss making Boston a ‘Winter City’ and that representatives from the Office of Arts and Culture, the Department of New Urban Mechanics, the Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, and the Department of Parks and Recreation, in addition to community advocates and members of the public are invited to testify.