

Offered by City Councilors Josh Zakim and Ayanna Pressley

Wu, O'Malley, Janey, McCarthy, Flynn, Flaherty, Essaibi-George,
Edwards, Ciommo, Baker and Campbell



CITY OF BOSTON

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING SEXUAL HARASSMENT POLICY IN THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

WHEREAS, Sexual harassment is a serious problem that is often ignored; and

WHEREAS, The US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (“EEOC”) reports that 75% of employees who spoke out against workplace mistreatment faced some form of retaliation, and estimates that 75% of all workplace harassment incidents go unreported altogether; and

WHEREAS, A culture of silence regarding sexual harassment has historically served to protect perpetrators, often rendering victims powerless in their pursuit for justice; and

WHEREAS, Several high-profile cases across the country, including in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, have recently shed light on the considerable scope of this issue, providing an important opportunity for the Boston City Council to examine its own policies and procedures regarding sexual harassment policy; *THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council review existing policies and procedures designed to properly address sexual harassment and prevent retaliation in the workplace, and to recommend changes where necessary to ensure that the City Council has best practices in place to ensure the safety of all employees, visitors, and others and; if any incidents do occur, that systems are in place to properly address complaints.

Filed on: January 16, 2018