

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MICHELLE WU



CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING
VOCATIONAL EDUCATION IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Vocational education is training that prepares people for work in an industry, trade, or craft; such training can encompass a wide range of fields such as information technology, business management, carpentry, automotive work, construction, culinary arts, health sciences and advanced manufacturing; *and*

WHEREAS, Vocational technical high schools can simultaneously give students skills demanded in the labor market while preparing them for post-secondary degrees in technical fields, with a focus on pathways into high-demand industries; *and*

WHEREAS, Research has established that vocational education is linked to higher wages, and a recent study of Massachusetts Regional Vocational Technical Schools found that attendance at a quality vocational high school increases the likelihood of graduation by 7-10% for students from families with higher incomes and by 32% for students from low-income families; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston currently has just one vocational technical high school, Madison Park High School, yet the city is home to a thriving job market with many positions that do not require a post-secondary degree; *and*

WHEREAS, The Commonwealth of Massachusetts is home to several vocational technical high schools that are touted as national models, and Boston could learn from these models in strengthening and expanding vocational technical education in the city; *NOW*

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine and discuss how the City of Boston and partners can improve and expand vocational educational opportunities in Boston, and that representatives from Boston Public Schools, key industries, other interested parties, and the public be invited to testify.