

Offered by City Councilors Josh Zakim and Ed Flynn
Edwards, Essaibi-George, Wu, Flaherty, Baker and Campbell



CITY OF BOSTON

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE BOSTON FREEDOM RALLY

WHEREAS, The Boston Freedom Rally, also known as, Hempfest, takes place annually on the Boston Common and most recently occurred on September 15-17, 2018; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Common hosts many permitted events throughout the year, but Hempfest is an event that regularly draws complaints from surrounding neighbors and visitors to the area; and

WHEREAS, These complaints allege that illegal activities and permit violations occurred during the most recent event. This included reports of parked cars on the green space, camping in the park, and leaving trash, including used needles, in the park after the event; and

WHEREAS, The City of Boston strives to be a welcoming place for all, particularly in our public spaces like the Common. However, it is clear from recent reports that more needs to be done to mitigate the impacts of Hempfest; **THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to further examine what action the City can take to mitigate the event and explore options to move it, and that representatives from the Law Department, Boston Police Department, Boston Parks and Recreation Department, the Friends of the Public Garden, and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: September 24, 2018