

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE POSSIBILITY OF CONGESTION PRICING IN BOSTON

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston is a popular destination and tourist site, as well as a place where vast numbers of vehicles enter into the City, at times negatively impacting the quality of life of Boston residents; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Numerous constituents have voiced concerns over the narrowing of streets, due to added bus and bike lanes as well as the rise in vehicular traffic. Furthermore, the placement of buses in the center of streets exacerbates traffic by restricting space for cars and trucks to maneuver effectively; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Narrow and congested streets pose challenges for emergency ambulances navigating already congested areas; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The implementation of congestion pricing is under consideration as a measure to alleviate traffic congestion and improve air quality in urban areas; *and*

**WHEREAS,** There is a need to understand and address the potential differential impacts of congestion pricing on various segments of the population, particularly underserved communities; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Underserved communities with vulnerable populations, such as low-income residents, seniors, and individuals with disabilities, may face unique challenges and opportunities regarding transportation accessibility and affordability; *and*

**WHEREAS,** It is essential to gather insights, perspectives, and concerns from various stakeholders to ensure that any congestion pricing initiatives benefit the community and minimize adverse impacts; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Congestion pricing is just such a possible mechanism that is in the process of possible utilization in parts of New York and New Jersey, showing itself to be a prospective viable option for implementation within Boston ; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In Manhattan, NYC, the Traffic Mobility Review Board delivered a report to Metropolitan Transportation Authority of its positive nature, and the MTA says that congestion pricing, if implemented, would help raise millions of dollars for the MTA to utilize for upkeep, repair and maintenance; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Governor of New York, Kathy Hochul, voiced her approval of the plan, saying that it would help facilitate processes that would lead to cleaner air, better transit, and a reduction of traffic and gridlock on city streets; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston, like New York City, hosts a great deal of drivers into our city and while this can be a boon to sectors of the economy, it can also function to disturb residents, increase traffic, as well as the prevalence of accidents; *and*

**WHEREAS,** A set fee placed on drivers of various vehicles could bring money and resources toward other elements of the community, reduce traffic, increase transit use and improve air quality, creating environmentally and eco-friendly solutions, as well as functioning as a tangible solution for those feeling preyed upon and thinking that the city is not hearing their feedback: ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address the potential effects of implementing congestion pricing on an underserved community with a vulnerable population within the city of Boston. Such hearing should include presentations on the proposed congestion pricing scheme, community impact assessments, stakeholder perspectives, etc. Representatives from the Streets Cabinet as well as community leaders, advocates and other relevant stakeholders shall be invited to attend and participate to ensure that the concerns and interests of the underserved community are adequately represented and addressed in any future congestion pricing decision-making process.

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