

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu and Kim Janey



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING EQUITY IN CITY OF BOSTON PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASING

WHEREAS: Many departments within the City of Boston contract out for services from private vendors through the procurement process and City departments obtain products from private vendors through the Purchasing Department's processes; *and*

WHEREAS: In December of 2017, the Boston City Council passed the Equity in City of Boston Contracts Ordinance, which included changes to the City's Request for Proposals process, as well as requirements for quarterly reporting on discretionary spending and the number and value of contracts awarded to businesses owned by women, people of color, and Boston residents to eliminate disparities local, small business face; *and*

WHEREAS: Of the \$664 million in contracts for construction and professional good services awarded to vendors by the City of Boston in 2018, less than 1% of these contracts were held by businesses owned by people of color and women; *and*

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council has received only two quarterly reports on the City's procurement metrics over the last eight quarters since the ordinance passed; *and*

WHEREAS: At the State level, the share of public contracting and discretionary agency spending for Black-owned businesses has significantly declined over the last twenty years; *and*

WHEREAS: Increasing the share of public contracting dollars going to representative and locally owned small businesses builds capacity for entrepreneurs of color and women entrepreneurs to reinvest in anchoring neighborhoods, hiring local residents, and supporting community initiatives; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the results of the report on the procurement process in the City of Boston, and that representatives from the Economic Development cabinet, other interested parties, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 7, 2019