Offered by Councilor Ricardo Arroyo

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE BAN OF MINIATURE ALCOHOL BOTTLES (NIPS) IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, In 2021, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that excessive alcohol consumption is responsible for more than 95,000 deaths in the United States each year, or 261 deaths per day; and

WHEREAS, The sale of miniature bottles of alcohol less than or equal to 100ml ("nips") in liquor stores can have detrimental impacts on the health and the well-being of Boston residents and neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, Ordinances banning the sale of nips in Chicago, Maine, Albuquerque, and the towns and cities of Falmouth, Mashpee, Wareham, Chelsea, and Newton in MA have been successful in reducing public intoxication and alcohol-related ambulance responses; *and*

WHEREAS, According to Cataldo Ambulance Service, which holds the contract for emergency calls in Chelsea, there were 742 alcohol-related responses in 2017, 556 in 2018 when the nip ban was in place for about half the year; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2018 Chelsea police Captain Keith Houghton said the city responded to 1,000 calls for alcohol-related problems, which resulted in 238 people being taken into custody by police and 781 being hospitalized, but by mid August of 2019, that number dropped to 86 individuals; *and*

WHEREAS, Plastics that are used in manufacturing nip bottles are not biodegradable, and in Massachusetts are not recyclable due to their size because they often fall into the designated glass pile with no way to sort them out; *and*

WHEREAS In the Hyde Park neighborhood of Boston, residents in efforts of reducing litter collected 10,000 nips in less than two months highlighting the impact littering has on our communities; *and*

WHEREAS, When granting a liquor store license, the Boston Licensing Board can, at their discretion, impose a condition that no nips or single containers of beer be sold on the premises; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston should take action in addressing the health-related inequities caused by alcohol abuse to ensure safer and healthier communities, while freeing up public health resources for non-alcohol related hospitalizations; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss a ban of the sale of nips in the City of Boston and the benefits that such a ban would have on public health; and that representatives from the Licensing Board, Boston Public Health Commission, and other interested parties be invited.

Filed in Council: March 22, 2023