

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL



ORDER OF COUNCILOR MATT O'MALLEY

- Whereas:** Access to the City of Boston's water supply for personal consumption is limited in public buildings and in public outdoor spaces, in contrast with many other communities that have expanded tap-water programs; and
- Whereas:** The City of Boston is world famous for our walkable streets and neighborhoods; however, sources of accessible tap-water for runners, walkers, tourists and local residents are limited and difficult for many to locate; and
- Whereas:** More than half of Massachusetts adults and almost one third of high school and middle school students are overweight or obese. With the city's identified health initiatives, including Boston Bikes and Boston Moves for Health, an ambitious campaign to improve residents' health and fitness, improved access to tap-water would work in tandem with these programs; and
- Whereas:** Massachusetts water sources have some of the most advanced disinfection techniques available and the City of Boston has long been at the forefront of water and wastewater engineering. The Massachusetts Water Resources Authority (MWRA) and the City of Boston are proud of their heritage of "generations of great water"; and
- Whereas:** The MWRA and the Boston Water and Sewer Commission test 300 to 500 water samples each week to ensure that our water is safe for consumption. Tap-water and bottled water must meet the same purification standards; however, tap water must meet the more intensive EPA testing requirements for public safety; and
- Whereas:** Americans buy an estimated 34.6 billion single-serving plastic water bottles annually. Almost eight out of 10 end up in a landfill or incinerator. There is potential to provide a greater public service and improve public awareness around the benefits of drinking tap-water; **Therefore Be It:**
- Ordered:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council conduct a hearing to discuss the availability of tap-water in public places and new technologies for its delivery and personal consumption throughout the City of Boston.