

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY



# CITY OF BOSTON

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IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-THREE

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE HEALTH RISKS  
RELATED TO STREET CLEANING EQUIPMENT THAT IS USED IN THE  
MASS AND CASS AREA AND OTHER NEIGHBORHOODS OF BOSTON

**WHEREAS,** It has come to our attention that the City of Boston, and its contractors, are using the same street cleaning equipment on South Hampton Street, Atkinson Street and Topeka Street as they are in other neighborhoods of Boston including the South End, Chinatown, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Bay Village and Downtown; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Recent reports of runoff from catch basins in the Mass and Cass area being dumped in the Boston Harbor have raised concerns in the community about the public's health and welfare due to the Public Health Emergency at Mass and Cass; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston Public Health officials released a warning last week regarding the public health threat of untreated overflows in the Fort Point Channel and advised residents to avoid these waters because of increased pollutants and bacteria found in the sewage discharge. The MWRA grades for the quality of water in the Fort Point Channel were an F and a D the past two years; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Ceasing the practice of using the same street cleaning equipment immediately and using specialized equipment, solely designated for this area, given the hazardous and infectious substances that are prevalent in the area is needed. This is a Public Health Crisis and we need to start addressing it that way so urgent attention, that is so desperately needed, can be given to all those affected; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the public health risks related to the street cleaning equipment used in the Mass and Cass area and other neighborhoods. Representatives from the Mayor's office, Boston Public Health Commission, Chief of Streets, Boston Public Works, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: August 9, 2023