

Offered by Councilor Josh Zakim



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINETEEN

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING ENFORCEMENT OF THE BOSTON TRUST ACT

- WHEREAS,** Protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of residents and visitors alike is a core value of the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** On August 20, 2014, the Boston Trust Act (“Trust Act”) was unanimously passed by the City Council and signed into law by Mayor Martin J. Walsh; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Trust Act prohibits the Boston Police Department (“BPD”) from detaining individuals based on their immigration status and directs the BPD to disregard federal immigration detainer requests; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Boston Trust Act was established to make all Bostonians safer by improving trust between law enforcement and Boston’s immigrant communities, so that witnesses or victims of crimes can interact with the BPD without fear of arrest due to their immigration status; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Recent news reports indicate that BPD officers worked in concert with federal Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents to arrest Jose Martin Paz Flores on May 10, 2017. At that time Mr. Paz Flores was not authorized to be in the United States; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Concerns have been raised as to overall compliance with and enforcement of the Trust Act; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council has a responsibility to protect the civil rights and civil liberties of all residents and visitors, regardless of immigration status, and to ensure that all city agencies comply with relevant laws and ordinances; **NOW,**
THEREFORE BE IT
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine whether violations of the Boston Trust Act occurred and if that ordinance needs to be updated to further the purpose and spirit of the original legislation; the Commissioner of the Boston Police Department, Corporation Counsel, representatives of other law enforcement agencies, and other interested parties shall be invited to testify.

Filed on: March 11, 2019