



Offered by Councilor Frank Baker

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS THE PUBLIC HEALTH DECLARATION OF 2020

WHEREAS, The Governor of the Commonwealth declared a state of emergency across Massachusetts in March 2020; and,

WHEREAS, The Governor of the Commonwealth lifted the state of emergency in June 2021; and,

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Health Commission declared a public health emergency on March 15, 2020 and extended this declaration on April 24, 2020. The City of Boston still remains in a state of emergency under this order from 2020; and,

WHEREAS, The state of emergency limits the power of the Boston City Council; limits the rights of municipal bargaining units; and, limits the rights of businesses; and,

WHEREAS, State of emergency declarations must be driven by objective public health data; and,

WHEREAS, All other cities and towns in the Commonwealth that have contemplated mandates have done so with discussion or support from their local health or select boards; and,

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Health Commission Board has not met monthly to discuss the public health mandates; and,

WHEREAS, It is important that the state of emergency is driven by public health data and that City officials are informed in order to allocate resources and assist constituents.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the ongoing state of emergency and the rationale for its continuation. Representatives from the Administration, the Boston Public Health Commission, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: February 9, 2022