

Offered by Councilors Andrea Campbell and Julia Mejia



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BOSTON POLICE REFORM TASK FORCE'S RECOMMENDATIONS AND THE STATE POLICE REFORM BILL

- WHEREAS:** The year 2020 reignited our nation's movement toward racial justice and broad police reform efforts; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The people of Boston led the charge and the Boston City Council followed based on their advocacy, sponsoring legislation to increase accountability and transparency in our police department, regulate chemical crowd control agents, and restrict use of force, among other efforts; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Mayor Walsh convened the Boston Police Reform Task Force, which was charged with reviewing the Boston Police Department's current policies and procedures and then presented recommendations for reform which were approved by Mayor Walsh in October 2020; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Councilors Campbell, Mejia, and Arroyo authored an ordinance to create a Civilian Review Board and subsequently worked with Mayor Walsh and his administration to strengthen legislation to establish the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency, which was recommended by the Task Force and includes the Civilian Review Board and the Internal Affairs Oversight Board, which Mayor Walsh signed into law on January 4, 2021; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Office of Police Accountability and Transparency creates a single point of public access for concerns regarding police accountability and community oversight, which will require significant planning, staff, internal policies, and investment from the City of Boston's budget in order to be effective; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Governor Baker recently signed into law the State's Police Reform Bill, An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth on December 31, 2020, which creates a mandatory certification process for police officers, increases accountability and transparency in law enforcement, and gives police departments a greater ability to hire or promote only qualified applicants; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Boston Police Department will work to adopt changes from the State's Police Reform Bill here at the local level; *and*

WHEREAS: Recent media reports suggest that at least one Boston Police Department officer may have joined the insurrection at the United States Capitol in Washington D.C. on January 6, 2021; *and*

WHEREAS: The residents of Boston deserve to know how the Boston Police Department is implementing changes to how it operates and creates greater transparency and accountability, which includes how it is investigating its members who may have been involved in the raid of the Capitol; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss progress on the Police Reform Task Force's recommendations, including establishment of the Office of Police Accountability and Transparency, and implementation of the State's Police Reform Bill, and that representatives from the Mayor's Administration, the Boston Police Department, the State's Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, the Massachusetts Legislature, advocacy groups, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 29, 2021