

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS SHARON DURKAN AND HENRY SANTANA



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS INADEQUATE DELIVERY SERVICES BY THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE WITHIN MISSION HILL AND OTHER BOSTON NEIGHBORHOODS

- WHEREAS,** The United States Postal Service (USPS) is a vital public service that plays a crucial role in connecting communities, facilitating communication, and conducting commerce; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Title 39, Section 101(a) of the United States Code establishes that "The United States Postal Service shall be operated as a basic and fundamental service provided to the people by the Government of the United States, authorized by the Constitution, created by Act of Congress, and supported by the people"; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The aforementioned statute further states that the Postal Service "shall provide prompt, reliable, and efficient services to patrons in all areas and shall render postal services to all communities"; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The Mission Hill neighborhood of Boston has been experiencing a significant lack of adequate postal services, causing hardship and inconvenience to residents and businesses in the area; *and*
- WHEREAS,** This situation may violate USPS's mandate to provide services to all communities as outlined in 39 U.S.C. § 101(a); *and*
- WHEREAS,** The lack of postal services in Mission Hill has severe negative impacts on residents' ability to receive important mail such as legal/financial documents, medications, and essential goods/services; *and*
- WHEREAS,** During the COVID-19 pandemic, Massachusetts instituted broad access to vote-by-mail and in every State-wide and Federal election since 2020, between $\frac{1}{3}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ of the electorate exercised the franchise using this method; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The proliferation of vote-by-mail in Massachusetts has significantly increased the importance of reliable and efficient postal services in ensuring the integrity of our democratic processes and any disruption in postal services could potentially disenfranchise voters who rely on mail-in ballots, undermining the fundamental right to participate in our democracy; *and*

WHEREAS, Given the need for immediate action to ensure that the residents and businesses of Mission Hill receive the postal services they are entitled to under federal law, an emergency declaration is hereby necessary to expedite the filing and consideration of this order; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council hold an emergency hearing to address the deterioration of USPS services in the Mission Hill neighborhood, identify the reasons for the inadequacy of service, and develop actionable recommendations to restore full postal services to the neighborhood in accordance with federal law.

Filed: September 18, 2024