



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON ISSUES RELATED TO STRAY VOLTAGE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: The City of Boston experienced a tragic incident two years ago where a dog was electrocuted on Southampton Street due to stray voltage underneath the ground and passed away as a result; *and*

WHEREAS: There were several incidents similar in nature to this tragic event that occurred over a decade ago in Boston, such as two electrocuted dogs in Chinatown back in 2005, and a dog in Charlestown in 2006; moreover, other dogs have been shocked by voltage in the City, namely two dogs shocked on Christmas in 2017 at a manhole near the Adams St. Bridge, that fortunately survived ; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston contains older electrical cabinets and during winter months, the ground in the vicinity of this infrastructure can become saturated and mixed with salt used to help clear the city's roads and sidewalks; moreover, this combination of saturated ground and salt can corrode wiring and grounding lugs to present conditions where tragic events like this can occur; *and*

WHEREAS: There have been working sessions related to the issue of stray voltage in 2018 and 2019 as a working group of stakeholders, including city officials, members of Boston's Street Lighting Division & the Dept. of Public Works, Eversource, MSPCA to discuss the continued efforts to address the dangers of stray voltage; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:
That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine the issues related to stray voltage in the City of Boston, and that relevant City of Boston departments be invited to discuss the causes of these incidents, the pertinent infrastructure involved, whether a study of older infrastructure in the city is feasible, and continue to brainstorm regarding short and long term steps that may be taken to help reduce the likelihood of events like this from occurring in the future. Representatives from the City of Boston and other interested parties shall be invited to testify.