

Offered by Councilors Brian Worrell, Tania Fernandes Anderson, Julia Mejia, Breadon. Coletta Zapata, Durkan, FitzGerald, Flynn, Murphy, Pepen, Santana, Weber and Louijeune



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Ordinance Codifying the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIT)

WHEREAS: The City of Boston increasingly relies upon data infrastructure and technology to establish programming, deliver services, and ensure equitable access to community resources; *and*

WHEREAS: The use of data in policymaking, program-making, and decision making will be increasingly vital as we work to build healthy, safe communities and effective, responsive institutions; *and*

WHEREAS: Current practices in the City of Boston combined with a lack of authorizing language in the City Code results in jurisdictional ambiguity and intensifies siloization of policies and best practices; *and*

WHEREAS: Sibling cities including Pittsburgh, San Francisco, and Austin, Texas, have empowered their IT departments, giving them authority over software and hardware procurement, data management, and strategy; *and*

WHEREAS: Providing DoIT with clear powers and authority will help streamline city services, ensure interagency compatibility, reduce costs, and improve data access, quality, and security; *and*

WHEREAS: The Boston City Council has made it a priority to ensure our City agencies are responsive and collaborative; **NOW THEREFORE**

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:

That the City of Boston Code Section 5 shall be amended by adding the following new sections and subsections after Section 5-10.2

Section One.

Section 5-11 Department of Innovation and Technology

Section 5-11.1.1 Appointment of Director:

There shall be in the City a Department, known as the Department of Innovation and Technology, which shall be under the charge of a Director, known as the Chief Information Officer who shall be appointed by the Mayor for a term expiring at the close of the municipal year after the next biennial municipal election at which a Mayor is elected.

Section 5-11.1.2 Duties of Director:

It shall be the duty of the Department of Innovation and Technology, and more especially of the Chief Information Officer, under the Mayor, to set and execute a technology strategy for the City of Boston and all of its governmental agents and agencies.

Unless otherwise provided by law, it shall be the responsibility of the Chief Information Officer to, at a minimum:

1. Establish procurement policies and guidelines relating to both software and hardware, including but not limited to:
 - a. Customer Relationship Management (CRM) software
 - b. Governmental Websites
 - c. Server equipment
 - d. Database management tools
 - e. Digital subscriptions and account management
 - f. Digital infrastructure assets
2. Establish data collection, storage, and access protocols
3. Maintain, modernize and secure City's technology infrastructure
4. Design, develop, and unify City's web presence
5. Develop, implement, and maintain, in consultation with the various department chiefs and directors, internet-based systems for the provision of services
6. Coordinate with other agencies and quasi-independent agencies to implement said policies to the extent necessary

The Chief Information Officer shall exclusively have the powers, and perform the duties, of a department head with respect to the appointment, suspension, discharge, compensation and indemnification of subordinates for the Department of Innovation and Technology.

Section 5-11.2 Severability

If any provision of this shall be held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then such provision shall be considered separately and apart from the remaining provisions, which shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 5-11.3 Implementation

The provisions of this ordinance shall be effective upon passage.

Filed in City Council: August 5, 2024