

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO SUPPORT THE CREATION OF LENDING LIBRARIES TO BENEFIT RESIDENTS AND REDUCE WASTEFUL PURCHASES

WHEREAS, Boston residents may want access to tools they do not have for sewing, cooking, wood-working, audio-visual projects, parties, auto and home repair, games, sports and outdoor activities, science, gardening, and cycling, leading many to purchase or rent redundant items they only need on special occasions; *and*

WHEREAS, The production of these tools for only occasional use has an unnecessary large environmental footprint, wasting plastic, metal, and aluminum; *and*

WHEREAS, Offering a space where residents can borrow commonly needed items is an opportunity to bring people together and offer education on their use; *and*

WHEREAS, Many active online spaces such as the Buy Nothing Project— which provide spaces for people to lend, share, give and receive items as well as inspire informal giving platforms on social media— prove there is demand for a community-centered program for item lending and giving; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Library already manages a program to circulate non-traditional materials, the “Library of Things,” which is limited in its scale, city reach, and wealth of items; *and*

WHEREAS, Several local communities in the Greater Boston Area including Quincy, Somerville, Brookline, and Watertown have robust, established item lending programs through their local libraries. Dozens of communities nationwide have implemented lending libraries in some form, including Chicago (IL), San Francisco (CA), and New York (NY); *and*

WHEREAS, The North Portland Tool Library (NPTL) has saved its residents more than \$447,000 or an average of \$60 per tool that was loaned out for use; *and*

WHEREAS, These programs have come at limited cost due to volunteer staffing, donations from the community, and private philanthropy; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss how Boston Public Libraries and other city properties can loan useful tools to our community.

Filed on: August 7, 2024