

#1101

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, ERIN MURPHY, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW THE HIRING, TRAINING, AND COMPLIANCE CERTIFICATION OF BPS SCHOOL BUS DRIVERS

- WHEREAS:** In late April, a 5-year-old boy was tragically struck and killed in Hyde Park by a Boston Public Schools (BPS) bus driver. Prior to the accident, the same driver reportedly struck two parked cars in Mattapan, raising immediate concerns about the City's oversight of school bus operations; and
- WHEREAS:** It was subsequently revealed that the bus driver was operating with an expired school bus certificate and had a record of prior collisions earlier that day. These facts are deeply troubling and demand an immediate and transparent investigation into the events that led to this fatal incident, including the driver's history, actions, and the decisions that allowed them to remain behind the wheel; and
- WHEREAS:** This tragedy underscores the urgent need to conduct a thorough review of the hiring and monitoring practices used by Transdev—the City's contracted school bus management company—including how drivers are screened, trained, certified, and supervised to ensure they meet the highest safety standards before transporting children; and
- WHEREAS:** The City must also evaluate and strengthen its real-time safety protocols by implementing enhanced measures to monitor driver behavior, report incidents promptly, and identify and address any misconduct or violations before they result in harm; and
- WHEREAS:** Boston Public Schools provides daily transportation to approximately 22,000 students. Families across the city entrust us with their children's safety, and it is our obligation to ensure that only qualified, properly certified, and closely monitored drivers are allowed to operate school buses; and
- WHEREAS:** The safety of Boston's children is non-negotiable. As elected officials, we must act with urgency to address the systemic failures that contributed to this tragedy and take meaningful steps to ensure it never happens again. We owe that to the young boy who lost his life, his family, and every family who relies on BPS transportation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to review the Hiring, Training, and Compliance Certification of BPS School Bus Drivers. Representatives from Boston Public Schools, Boston Public Schools Transportation, Transdev, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: May 21, 2025