

CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL



ORDER OF CITY COUNCILORS MATT O'MALLEY  
AND AYANNA PRESSLEY

**WHEREAS:** Compost is rich in nutrients, improves the water-holding capacity of soil and encourages good root structure while reducing or eliminating the need for chemical pesticides making it a great material for use in gardens, landscaping and agriculture; and

**WHEREAS:** The City Council's City, Neighborhood Services and Veterans Affairs Committee held a hearing in May 2014 during which representatives of the Mayor's office, environmental advocates and other stakeholders offered public testimony on the status of curbside composting in Boston; and

**WHEREAS:** City-run curbside composting programs exist in over 100 cities in the United States, and

**WHEREAS:** San Francisco diverts more than 60 percent of its waste from landfills through composting and recycling. In its first year of curbside composting, Portland, Oregon decreased trash production by 37 percent; and

**WHEREAS:** The City of Cambridge, which launched a composting pilot program in 2014, collected 170,000 pounds of food scraps from more than 600 households last year; and

**WHEREAS:** A Jamaica Plain start-up called Bootstrap Composting now serves 18 Boston neighborhoods and continues to expand. Bootstrap is partnered with three farms and has diverted more than 675,000 pounds of food scraps from landfills for fertilizing fields since 2011; and

**WHEREAS:** Local colleges have embraced composting programs, with Boston University diverting more than 1,000 tons of compost from its waste and Harvard University planning to become "zero waste" by 2020 through increased composting among other initiatives; and

**WHEREAS:** The finished compost can be used for landscaping in Boston's parks and gardens or could be sold to local farmers, creating a full circle of food returning to food for Boston residents; **THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** The Boston City Council, hereby assembled, orders a hearing on the feasibility of a curbside composting program in the City of Boston. Representatives from the Department of Public Works, Bootstrap Composting, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in City Council: January 31, 2018