

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MICHELLE WU



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING IMPLEMENTING A ONECARD MUNICIPAL IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS*, Lack of formal photo identification can be a major roadblock to accessing services, particularly for undocumented immigrants, people experiencing homelessness, and the transgender community; *and*,
- WHEREAS*, The City of Boston could create a Municipal Identification (ID) program to provide access to formal identification for all city residents regardless of immigration status, homeless status, or gender identity; *and*,
- WHEREAS*, The Boston City Council convened a hearing regarding implementation of a Boston Municipal ID in October 2016, and Mayor Walsh announced the launch of a feasibility study in 2017 funded through the FY17 budget process; *and*
- WHEREAS*, The OneCard Municipal ID could give residents the option to list medical or health information, which would assist first responders in case of emergency; a Municipal ID could also streamline access to city services across the board, such as cards currently needed for the Boston Public Library system, community centers, schools, and public transportation; *and*,
- WHEREAS*, Other municipalities including New York City, San Francisco, and Newark have successfully implemented Municipal ID programs, many of which include civic opportunities for participants such as discounts on admission to cultural institutions and reduced bike share membership; *and*,
- WHEREAS*, Boston already has much of the necessary infrastructure to launch such a program, including municipal buildings like libraries and neighborhood health centers throughout the city; *NOW*,

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the results of the Boston Municipal ID feasibility study and discuss appropriate next steps, and that representatives from the Health and Human Services Cabinet, Office for Immigrant Advancement, and other interested parties and members of the public be invited to testify.

Filed: September 26, 2018