

Offered by Councilor Timothy McCarthy



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING EXPANSION OF CITY DEVELOPMENT REQUIREMENTS WITH A FOCUS ON ACHIEVING BASELINE TREE PRESERVATION AND TOTAL TREE CAPACITY ON A DEVELOPMENT SITE

- WHEREAS, The City of Boston is in a building boom with a projection of 69,000 units of housing to be built by 2030; and
- WHEREAS, This building expansion has been responsible for the loss of an unprecedented numbers of old growth trees, with little thought being given to the detrimental effects this loss will have on the environment, the city and its residents; and
- WHEREAS, Trees are recognized for their ability to improve air quality, protect from glare and heat, reduce noise, aid in the stabilization of soil, provide natural flood and drainage control, enhance aesthetics and property values, contribute to the character of neighborhoods and provide natural privacy to residents; and
- WHEREAS, Boston had a goal of planting 100,000 street trees by 2020 and to date Boston has planted 10,000 and removed 6,000. These numbers do not include the number of trees Removed from development sites; and
- WHEREAS, Trees are often removed from a piece of land well in advance of a development proposal entering into the permitting and design process preventing input from the city or the community regarding removal or replacement; and
- WHEREAS, Cities, towns and municipalities, including Wellesley, Lexington, Newton and Portland, have successfully instituted permitting processes, ordinances and bylaws to protect and preserve the tree canopies of their municipalities; and
- WHEREAS, Boston is in the process of developing a Climate Ready Boston plan to address the effects of global warming it would be a perfect opportunity to enhance that plan by addressing methods to protect and preserve existing old growth trees in the city; and

NOW,

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED.

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss expansion of city development requirements with a focus on achieving baseline tree preservation and replacement. Mayor's Office, Boston Parks Department, Inspectional Services and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed: June 26, 2019