

BAKER, CAMPBELL, CIOMMO,
JACKSON, FLAHERTY, LAMATTINA,
LINEHAN, MCCARTHY, O'MALLEY,
AND ESSAIBI-GEORGE.

Offered by City Councilors Michelle Wu and Ayanna Pressley



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING CITY OF BOSTON PROCUREMENT AND PURCHASING

- WHEREAS:* Many departments within the City of Boston contract out for services from private vendors through an open bidding process known as Procurement, and City departments obtain products from private vendors through the Purchasing Department's processes; and
- WHEREAS:* From contracts in food services to construction and snow removal, there are opportunities in a wide range of fields for local, small businesses; and
- WHEREAS:* Massachusetts law requires that any contract greater than or equal to \$35,000 have a City of Boston standard contract, and any contract greater than or equal to \$10,000 but less than \$35,000 may be done through a written quote process in which the City of Boston solicits documented quotations from at least three suppliers; and
- WHEREAS:* Greater transparency about types of contracts that are bid out, especially those below the \$35,000 threshold, could help increase opportunities for businesses owned by local residents, women and people of color; and
- WHEREAS:* Processes that rely on bidders demonstrating previous bidding history preclude newer, smaller businesses from bidding competitively on large contracts, but the City could set aside smaller contracts for newer businesses to enter the procurement and purchasing pipeline; and
- WHEREAS:* The City of Boston website currently does not include an accessible way to track the list of contracts awarded and businesses chosen; and
- WHEREAS:* Local, small businesses give back to communities by hiring locally, sponsoring youth sports and other events, and serving as anchors in their neighborhoods; and
- WHEREAS:* Mayor Walsh's Economic Inclusion and Equity Agenda and recent executive order regarding procurement make great strides and set lofty goals for supporting women and minority owned businesses competing for city contracts; and
- WHEREAS:* The City of Boston is focused on creating and building wealth, and creating opportunities for small business owners and employees in every neighborhood is essential for addressing income inequality in our city; and

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the procurement process in the City of Boston focusing on ways we can better support local businesses in that process, and that the Procurement Office, Purchasing Department and any other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: March 2, 2016