



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Offered by Councilor Essaibi-George and Councilor Timothy
McCarthy

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING SAFE AND EFFECTIVE SHARPS DISPOSAL PRACTICES

WHEREAS: The opiate crisis has had a devastating effect on the state of Massachusetts, with a 216% increase in overdose deaths since 2013 according to the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

WHEREAS: This epidemic has had a disproportionate effect on the City of Boston due to the centralization of recovery services.

WHEREAS: One of many externalities of this epidemic is the increase in sharps litter, which poses a public health risk in its ability to facilitate the spread of Hepatitis C and HIV. 311 data demonstrates that sharps litter has affected every neighborhood in the city.

WHEREAS: The City of Boston currently has many tools by which to manage sharps litter, including disposal kiosks and sharps collection teams coordinated by AHOPE and 311.

WHEREAS: Various first responders, library, school, and parks employees come into contact with sharps on a daily basis. Training these city employees in safe sharps disposal procedures would greatly improve their safety and provide a model for the general public.

WHEREAS: Various city agencies separately negotiate medical waste disposal contracts which, if centralized, would likely reduce the overall cost of sharps disposal.

WHEREAS: More efficient and effective sharps disposal will make our city a safer place for all;
THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to determine methods by which the City of Boston can improve our management of sharps litter. Interested parties should be invited to participate such as the Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Boston Healthcare for the Homeless, AHOPE, the Mayor's Office of Recovery Services, Boston 311, the Boston Public Health Commission, Boston Inspectional Services Department, Boston Public Works, Boston Public Schools, the Boston Public Library, and our first responders.