

Offered by Councilor Michelle Wu, McCarthy, O'Malley, Pressley, Zakim, Ciommo, Janey, Flaherty, Flynn, Essaibi-George, Edwards, Campbell



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE CITY OF BOSTON'S LOCAL ASSESSMENT PAYMENT TO THE MBTA

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA) operating budget includes as its three largest sources of revenue: state sales tax, fares paid by MBTA riders, and dedicated local assessments levied on the 175 municipalities in the MBTA's service area. The amount assessed on each city or town is determined by weighted population and level of MBTA service; *and*

WHEREAS, In Fiscal Year 2018 the City of Boston must make a local assessment payment to the MBTA of \$85,805,225, which makes up 51.6% of the total local assessment revenues and 4.4% of the MBTA's \$1.989 billion total operating budget; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston meets its dedicated local assessment obligation in full even as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts does not fully fund certain local reimbursements back to the City of Boston at the level set by state law; *and*

WHEREAS, The \$85.8 million local assessment payment to the MBTA comes from the City of Boston's General Fund and represents taxpayer dollars from all of Boston, but the MBTA's fare structure is not equitable for residents in every neighborhood: Hyde Park, West Roxbury, and Roslindale residents are not served by subway and are designated in Commuter Rail fare zones where it is more than twice as expensive to travel within Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, At current MBTA service levels, certain buses and subway trains are so crowded during rush hour that many commuters must "go out to go in," traveling first in the opposite direction from their destination to be able to access transit in the intended direction, yet the MBTA is considering fare increases for the next fiscal year, which would disproportionately burden Boston residents and especially low-income and working class residents who most need access to affordable, reliable public transit; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the City of Boston's annual local assessment to the MBTA, and that representatives from the MBTA, Boston Transportation Department, City of Boston Budget Office, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: February 14, 2018