

Offered by City Councilor Ayanna Pressley

CITY OF BOSTON



HEARING ORDER TO DISCUSS AND ASSESS THE AMOUNT AND QUALITY OF TREE COVERAGE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, Sustainability and environmental stewardship are important values to the City of Boston clearly articulated in the city’s Imagine Boston 2030, the City’s comprehensive plan; and

WHEREAS, Climate change continues to change our seasonal and temperature norms, and this past winter neighborhoods like the Seaport and East Boston have dealt with unprecedented flooding; and

WHEREAS, Across the country about 30 percent of trees in American cities have been lost to development; and

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is currently in the third largest building boom of the City’s history and has contributed to a decrease in the number of mature trees and green space overall; and

WHEREAS, Trees, and especially mature trees, are a vital natural resource offering direct ecological, economic, and health benefits to the community; and

WHEREAS, Trees produce a host of positive effects for cities including: reducing storm water runoff by intercepting rainwater in their canopies and root systems, mitigating the ‘heat-island effect’ which lowers surrounding temperatures and cools the internal temperature of nearby buildings, increasing property values--in some cases by up to 20 percent, and reducing rates of asthma and other respiratory ailments; and

WHEREAS, The focus on development needs to include the importance of our City’s trees and recognize the link between healthy mature trees and creating healthy neighborhoods.
THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss and assess current and future tree coverage in the City of Boston; and that representatives from Boston Public Work Departments, the Boston Planning and Development Agency, and Environment Department and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed: April 9th, 2018