

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE ISSUES RELATED TO STRAY VOLTAGE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: The City of Boston experienced a tragic incident last year wherein a dog was electrocuted on Southampton Street due to stray voltage underneath the ground and passed away as a result; *and*

WHEREAS: There were several incidents similar in nature to this tragic event that occurred over a decade ago in Boston, such as two electrocuted dogs in Chinatown back in 2005, and a dog in Charlestown in 2006; moreover, other dogs have been shocked by voltage in the City, namely two dogs shocked on Christmas in 2017 at a manhole near the Adams St. Bridge, that fortunately survived; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston contains older electrical cabinets and, during the winter months, the ground in the vicinity of this infrastructure can become saturated and mixed with salt used to help clear the city's roads and sidewalks; moreover, this combination of saturated ground and salt can corrode wiring and grounding lugs to present conditions where tragic events like this can occur; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Boston City Council Committee hold a hearing to examine the issues related to stray voltage in the city, and that relevant City of Boston departments be invited to discuss the causes of these incidents, the pertinent infrastructure involved, whether a study of older infrastructure in the city is feasible, and continue to brainstorm regarding short and long-term steps that may be taken to help reduce the likelihood of events like this from occurring in the future.

Filed in Council: January 9, 2018