



Offered by City Councilor Annissa Essaibi-George
Flaherty, Breadon, Arroyo, Mejia, Edwards, Campbell, Baker, O'Malley, Bok
and Janey

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE
EXPANSION OF THE BOSTON EMERGENCY
SERVICES TEAM**

WHEREAS: The Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST) mobile crisis clinicians are a critical part of Boston's ability to respond adequately to public and mental health emergencies; and

WHEREAS: In the FY21 Budget, the BEST Clinicians funding increased dramatically, with an additional \$2 million; and

WHEREAS: The BEST Clinicians represent a partnership between the Boston Medical Center (BMC), the Boston Public Health Commission (BPHC), and the Boston Police Department (BPD); and

WHEREAS: The BPD has previously indicated that the Department wants half of the Clinicians to focus on mental health and the other half focus on homelessness; and

WHEREAS: Since Emergency Medical Services (EMS) is a division of the BPHC and already provides enormous support to mental health calls in the city, they should be actively included in any conversation regarding the BEST Clinicians expansion; and

WHEREAS: Because of the interdepartmental partnership and the substantial funding increase, there is a need to more clearly shape the practices, governance, and priorities of the BEST Clinicians so that we can better utilize the Clinicians across the City,
THEREFORE, BE IT

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine the current practices and structure of the BEST Clinicians and the expansions possible this fiscal year. Testimony from the existing BEST Clinicians, BMC, BPHC, BPD, EMS and community advocates will be heard.