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## **Boston City Council Committee on Ways and Means**

*Dockets #0524-0531 FY22 Budget*

*Inspectional Services Department*

***Working Session: Friday, May 21 2021, 10:00 a.m.***

***Hearing: Thursday, June 2, 2021, 10:00 a.m.***

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The following is a collection of questions that were asked by the Committee regarding the Inspectional Services Department's budget at the Working Session on Friday, May 21, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. Recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Aml3Vd97nuA>

The Administration is requested to respond to all questions in one of three ways:

1. Verbally at the hearing on Thursday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, at 10AM.
2. For factual questions, through written responses supplied prior to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, including budget book page numbers or other references where appropriate.
3. By deferring to a specific scheduled departmental budget hearing.

Please annotate and return this information request before June 2<sup>nd</sup>, indicating how each question will be answered.

### **Inspectional Services Department Budget Questions**

#### **Councilor Kenzie Bok, Chair, asked:**

- Can you provide an update on the short-term rental regulations and enforcement?
  - How can the City address the "executive suite" loophole? I know we had discussed adding a more formal set of requirements for units to use the institutional affiliation exception; have we made any progress on this?
- What is the ISD formal process for approving after-hours and night-time construction work?
- We have recently been talking about preventing demolitions of buildings designated as pending landmarks; is this something ISD can do? Have you discussed it?
- I continue to hear about long delays for people getting permits; I know there were some bouts of COVID-19 that went through the department, but that was many months ago now. Are we adequately staffed to handle the permitting workload?

#### **Councilor Liz Breadon asked:**

- How many short-term rental violations has ISD issued?
  - What kind of violations were these?
- Does ISD have enough resources and staff to do all that it is tasked with including enforcement?
- Does ISD have the capacity to enforce condo-conversion regulations?
- How can ISD educate residents to help mitigate rodent activity in our neighborhoods?



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### **Councilor Matt O'Malley asked:**

- What are the plans to ensure proper staffing levels within ISD?
- Does ISD have plans to increase the number of inspectors?

### **Councilor Ed Flynn asked:**

- Does this budget include more funding to increase the number of ISD inspectors?
- How many building inspectors are there at ISD?
  - How large of an area does each inspector cover?
  - How many cases do inspectors have to report to each week?
- What measures is ISD implementing to address pest and rodent control?
- How long does it take once an application is filed through the ZBA to receive a hearing date?
- Will ZBA and abutters meetings remain virtual in the future?