

Offered by Councilor Matt O'Malley



**AN ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE  
INSTALLATION OF SOLAR PANELS ON  
MUNICIPAL PARKING LOTS AND BUILDINGS**

- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston is facing the impacts of a global climate emergency, from the local sea level rising nine inches and another eight inches expected by 2030, dangerous urban heat islands, with surface temperatures 10 degrees warmer than surrounding suburbs; and
- WHEREAS:** Communities of color in urban areas of Massachusetts are exposed to more indoor and outdoor air pollution contributed by climate change and suffer disproportionately from diseases associated with air pollution, including asthma and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD); and
- WHEREAS:** The City owns and maintains properties including 32 municipal parking lots - many of which have the potential for solar panelling; and
- WHEREAS:** Installing solar panel carports combats the urban heat island effect, with the additional benefits of lowering individual fuel costs in the summer by keeping vehicles cool, and shading pavement below; and
- WHEREAS:** According to the MassCEC 1,000 kWh generated by a solar electric system avoids sending 0.17 pounds of sulfur dioxide, 0.35 pounds of nitrogen oxides and 747 pounds of carbon dioxide emissions into the atmosphere; and
- WHEREAS:** The installation of municipal solar panels has the potential for significant long-term savings, local jobs generation in a variety of positions, and local development in the solar and renewable energy industry; and
- WHEREAS:** Municipalities such as West Hartford, Connecticut and Medford, Massachusetts have invested in solar panels on public land as a way to reduce their carbon output while lowering the cost of electricity for their residents; **THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the feasibility of installing solar panelling on municipally owned buildings and parking lots, and that members of the Administration including Chief Sheila Dillon, Commissioner Gregory Rooney, and other representatives from the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Department of Transportation, and the Environment Department, along with environmental advocates, leaders in construction, and the public, be invited to testify.

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