

Offered by Councillor Jackson Essaibi-George, Pressley, Campbell, McCarthy, Flaherty, Ciommo, O'Malley, Zakim, LaMattina, Wu and Baker



CITY OF BOSTON FOR CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS RECOVERY SERVICE BEDS AT THE SOUTHAMPTON STREET SHELTER

WHEREAS, The Southampton Street Shelter lost 40 recovery service beds specifically focused on HIV-positive men which had been created to address the loss of the Long Island Shelter;

WHEREAS, According to recovery service advocates, there are at least 300 HIV positive homeless people in the City of Boston;

WHEREAS, Although the City is repurposing these beds for emergency shelter, the Southampton Street Shelter was the only dedicated recovery service in Boston that accommodated HIV-positive homeless patients;

WHEREAS, The Boston Housing Care found that HIV-positive homeless people have three times more difficulty accessing care than housed people with HIV;

WHEREAS, According to the Boston Globe, opioid-related overdoses rose 16% last year. Nearly 80% of those deaths were men;

WHEREAS, Researchers of a longitudinal study in Boston found drug overdoses were the leading cause of death among the homeless population;

WHEREAS, The Southampton Street Shelter is a critical location for recovery services, located near three methadone clinics and Boston Medical Center, and a high-traffic area of those afflicted by addiction, NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to address recovery services at the Southampton Street Shelter. Those invited to provide perspective will include the Boston Public Health Commission, along with other interested parties.