

Offered by City Councilors Lydia Edwards and Annissa Essaibi-George



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING STUDENT TRANSPORTATION TO BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS:* The City of Boston and Boston Public Schools are committed to securing equitable educational opportunities for all children; and
- WHEREAS:* Members of the public have raised a variety of issues regarding equity in school transportation; and
- WHEREAS:* Student transportation and routes to school are critical components of a student's success; and
- WHEREAS:* Boston Public Schools' Transportation staff work under the serious and difficult charge of safely, effectively and fairly conducting students between school, enrichment programs and extracurricular activities and their homes across the city; and
- WHEREAS:* The city has on certain occasions negotiated with the MBTA to supplement the municipal fleet in providing bus service; and
- WHEREAS:* Recent changes in school transportation policy have also directed older students to use public transportation operated by the MBTA; and
- WHEREAS:* At the start of the school year, many of Boston's families faced difficulty with transportation including providing safe transportation for students, supportive transportation for students with an Individualized Education Program, correct and timely pick-up and drop-off locations, direct routes to exam schools, & scheduling alternative transportation to after-school programs; and
- WHEREAS:* Transportation difficulties can affect a student's wellness and performance, and some BPS families have reported difficulty boarding buses, while others are frustrated with disciplinary procedures leveraged to promote compliance with transportation policy; and

WHEREAS: Equal access to schools and transportation solutions will ensure fair access to quality education for every student; *THEREFORE*

BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss school transportation and that staff from Boston Public Schools, the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority, impacted parents, students and any other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in City Council: January 9, 2019