

Offered by Councilors Liz Breadon and Ed Flynn



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE OCCUPATIONAL PRESUMPTION OF COVID-19 EXPOSURE FOR ESSENTIAL FRONTLINE WORKERS

- WHEREAS,** In response to the coronavirus pandemic the Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts declared a state of emergency and the Mayor of City of Boston declared a public health emergency; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** The Governor's "Essential Services List" includes healthcare workers, first responders, grocery employees, and others who must report to work in order to provide critical services to the public in response to the COVID-19 pandemic; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** In recent weeks more than 160 Boston hospital workers and more than 1,900 Massachusetts hospital workers have tested positive for COVID-19; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** The shortage of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) provided by management and employers has put frontline essential workers at increased risk of contracting the coronavirus in their employment settings; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Nurses Association has reported that a number of hospitals contend that healthcare workers who test positive for COVID-19 acquired the virus in the community rather than at work; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Multiple reports indicate that healthcare facilities are failing to triage and segregate patients as well as provide appropriate PPE, timely testing to healthcare workers, and onsite facility parking or safe transportation to work; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Occupational presumption would recognize that essential frontline workers who contract coronavirus are almost certain to have contracted the virus at work or through work-related settings; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the occupational safety, hazards, and presumption of COVID-19 exposure for frontline workers. Administration Officials, healthcare workers, labor advocates, healthcare industry executives, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend remotely in the interest of public health amid this COVID-19 pandemic.

Filed in City Council: April 29, 2020