

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BENJAMIN J. WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.2667 AND S.1586 “AN ACT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SAFETY TELECOMMUNICATORS WITH THE SAME INTERNAL BENEFITS AS FIRST RESPONDERS”

WHEREAS, 911 dispatchers play a crucial role as the “First Line” in the emergency response process; *and*

WHEREAS, In Massachusetts, 911 dispatchers are classified as clerical workers and therefore do not have access to the same resources and benefits as other first responders; *and*

WHEREAS, Nationally and locally, 911 dispatchers are experiencing a high rate of burnout, turnover, understaffing and signs of post-traumatic stress disorder, similar to police officers; *and*

WHEREAS, H.2667 and S.1586, “An Act to provide public safety telecommunicators with the same internal benefits as first responders,” sponsored by Rep. Micheal Soter and Sen. Mike Rush, would ensure that dispatchers receive the same internal benefits as first responders; *and*

WHEREAS, On April 14, 2023, Mayor Michelle Wu signed an executive order recognizing all Boston Police Operations Division civilian employees as first responders; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council passed a resolution in support of public safety telecommunications personnel and telecommunicators week on April 10, 2024, demonstrating our support for these public safety personnel and the work they do for the residents of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council and Mayor Wu recognize that the role and functions of 911 dispatchers are based in public safety rather than solely clerical or administrative, and that this designation as public safety employees requires a change in state law to become effective; *and NOW, THEREFORE BE IT*

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council supports H.2667 and S.1586 and urges legislators at the statehouse to pass this legislation.

Filed on: May 1, 2024