

Offered by Councilor Rob Consalvo



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TEN

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING SOLID ROLL-DOWN METAL SECURITY GRATES IN BUSINESS STOREFRONTS

- WHEREAS,* The Boston City Council is committed to the continued beautification and preservation of the city's urban landscape and the improvement of our business districts; and,
- WHEREAS,* Solid roll down metal security grates on businesses are unattractive, unwelcoming to potential customers and become magnets for graffiti and other forms of vandalism as well as hamper public safety responders; and,
- WHEREAS,* The City does encourage business owners through incentives from the Department of Neighborhood Development and through the Main Streets Program to remove and replace solid roll down metal security grates; and,
- WHEREAS,* Recently, the New York City Council passed a bill that will require certain businesses to phase out roll down metal security grates with a grate that allows at least 70 percent of the covered area to be visible by July 1, 2026; and,
- WHEREAS,* The New York City legislation – which went into effect January, 1, 2010 – directs the Buildings Department to develop a program to alert affected businesses of the new rules and to work with them to address the issue; and,
- WHEREAS,* By phasing out solid roll down metal security grates with partially transparent grates, vandals would have a harder time committing graffiti crimes; and,
- WHEREAS,* Public safety personnel – including police, firefighters and EMS – responding to emergency calls will also benefit from the increased visibility into the property's interior.
- WHEREAS,* The gradual process of installing partially transparent grates on property storefronts will not only eliminate unattractive, graffiti-covered grates, but also has crucial public safety implications and makes businesses more inviting for patrons;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the issue of solid roll down metal security grates on property storefronts, the New York City ordinance and the benefits of installing higher visibility grates to protect property, eliminate graffiti and aid public safety responders throughout the City of Boston.

Filed on: March 24, 2010