

Offered by Councilor Rob Consalvo



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND TEN

ORDER FOR A HEARING EXPLORING THE IMPACT THAT PAVED SURFACES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON HAS ON THE LEVEL OF FLOODING AND STORMWATER RUNOFF

- WHEREAS*, As a result of this year's record-breaking rainfall, Boston's neighborhoods have experienced severe flooding partly due to hard surfaces, such as paved roads, patios, parking lots and driveways; and,
- WHEREAS*, Stormwater runoff occurs when precipitation from rain or snowmelt flows over the ground. Impervious surfaces like driveways, sidewalks, and streets prevent stormwater runoff from naturally soaking into the ground; and,
- WHEREAS*, According to the Charles River Watershed Association, approximately 56 percent of Boston is paved over; and,
- WHEREAS*, A 2002 U.S. Geological Survey report noted that river flows near densely paved areas in Massachusetts were almost 10 times as high as those near less paved areas; and,
- WHEREAS*, The potential for pollution and contamination of water runoff being treated in sewage treatment plants across the region is a cause for public health concern; and,
- WHEREAS*, In an effort to address stormwater runoff, cities and towns in Massachusetts have begun, or are considering, charging fees at new construction projects that require paving over impervious surfaces as a way to minimize the environmental impact; and,
- WHEREAS*, The gradual process of upgrading Boston's drainage system must be complimented by the effort to expand permeable surfaces in our urban landscape that allow for natural absorption into the ground; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*
- ORDERED*, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss how the City of Boston plans to mitigate the impact of stormwater runoff throughout the community.

Filed on: Monday, May 3, 2010