



Offered by COUNCILLOR CHARLES C. YANCEY

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER CALLING FOR HEARING TO INVESTIGATE MEANS OF PROTECTING RESIDENTS FROM SIM CARD FRAUD

- WHEREAS: The first Subscriber Identity Module (SIM) card was developed in 1991; And
- WHEREAS: SIM cards contain subscriber information, authentication information, text messages and phone book contacts; And
- WHEREAS: SIM card fraud has led authorities in several nations to implement consumer protection measures that require buyers to have valid identification, such as a license or a voter registration cards, when registering for a mobile phone; And
- WHEREAS: New legislation in South Africa that went into effect on July 1, 2009 requires operators who buy prepay SIM cards to register their identities, physical addresses and cellular phone numbers with retailers. Existing customers will have 18 months to register prepaid and contract SIM cards or their SIM cards will be deactivated; And
- WHEREAS: The Boston Police have reported that cell phone theft is a serious problem in the City of Boston; And
- WHEREAS: Owners of stolen cell phones are responsible for all calls made up until the phones have been reported stolen; Be It Therefore
- ORDERED: That the Boston City Council holds a public hearing to investigate means of protecting consumers from SIM card fraud; Be It Further
- ORDERED: That members of the cellular phone industry (Sprint, T-mobile, AT&T, and Verizon Wireless), Boston Police Department, and general public be invited to testify about whether or not SIM card legislation may be employed to help reduce cellular phone theft in the City of Boston.

In City Council
July 29, 2009