CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER OF CITY COUNCILLOR JOHN M. TOBIN, JR.

WHEREAS: The City of Boston switched from lever voting machines to optical scan voting machines and paper ballots filled out by hand during the 2003 Boston City Council race; and

WHEREAS: The optical scan voting machines replaced lever machines that were outdated and inefficient; and

WHEREAS: Under the new system voters no longer cast ballots behind a curtain, which provided complete privacy; and

WHEREAS: Today voters complete their ballots at a table that does not allow them to shield their choices from other people standing nearby; and

WHEREAS: Voters' choices can be seen by others as they check out of the poll and as they feed the ballot into the optical scan voting machine; and

WHEREAS: The layout and design of the city's ballot makes it difficult for voters to consider all of the candidates for election because some of them can be easily overlooked; **Therefore Be It**

ORDERED: That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council hold a public hearing to discuss voter privacy at the city's polling sites and election ballot design.

Filed in City Council: November 17, 2009