

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MICHELLE WU AND TITO JACKSON



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**AN ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING
TOBACCO REGULATIONS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston should have reasonable regulations to prevent youth access to and use of tobacco products; *and*,

WHEREAS, Retail establishments in Boston have historically demonstrated a high compliance rate with tobacco control laws and regulations; *and*,

WHEREAS, Retailers throughout Boston support recent regulations increasing the legal minimum age of tobacco purchase to twenty-one years of age in order to further reduce youth access to tobacco; *and*,

WHEREAS, The Boston Public Health Commission additionally instituted a partial ban on flavored tobacco, prohibiting the sale of such products in convenience stores and neighborhood retail establishments, but continuing to allow the sale of these products in smoke shops; *and*,

WHEREAS, These regulations may have unintended consequences on neighborhood retail establishments and may not be beneficial in reducing youth access to and use of tobacco; *and*,

WHEREAS, These regulations were imposed directly by the Boston Public Health Commission without City Council approval, unlike the City of Boston's Smokeless Tobacco Ordinance, which was introduced by Mayor Walsh and passed by the City Council after a public hearing process; *NOW*,

***THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED*,**

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the current tobacco regulations in the City of Boston and the partial ban on the sale of flavored tobacco products; and that members of the Boston Convenience Store Owners Association, individual retailers, the Boston Public Health Commission and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed: August 3, 2016