

COUNCILOR FELIX G. ARROYO & COUNCILOR BILL LINEHAN

Invite you to:

Hearing on Public and Private Alleyways in Boston

When: Wednesday, April 27th at 6:00 p.m.

Where: Boston City Council Chambers,
5th floor of Boston City Hall

The public is invited to attend and learn from city officials:

- How alleys are designated as public or private
- What jurisdiction the city has in providing services for private alleys
- What duties private property owners have in upkeep and maintenance of private alleys

Officials from the Boston Public Works Department, Inspectional Services Department, Transportation Department, and Boston Water & Sewer Commission have been invited to testify.

The public is also permitted and encouraged to testify as well at the hearing.

For more information or for any questions, feel free to contact Stuart Rosenberg at Boston City Councilor Felix G. Arroyo's office at 617 635-4205 or stuart.rosenberg@cityofboston.gov.

The full Hearing Order is attached.



Offered by:

COUNCILORS FELIX G. ARROYO AND BILL LINEHAN

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ALLEY WAYS

- WHEREAS,* A significant number of residential and commercial properties in the South End, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, and other downtown neighborhoods abut alleys; and
- WHEREAS,* These alleys are often the location for individuals residing or working in these properties to park their vehicles year round and engage in recreational activities during the spring, summer, and fall months; and
- WHEREAS,* Some of these alleys are designated as private property while others are designated as public property, and these designations often occurred as early as the 1850s; and
- WHEREAS,* Determination on what work can be done for upkeep of alleys in these neighborhoods and what entity—private or public—can do the work is dependent on the designation on the alley being public or private; and
- WHEREAS,* Residents in the impacted neighborhoods are often unaware whether an alley adjacent to their property has been designated public or private and are also often unaware how that designation was determined; and
- WHEREAS,* Residents in these impacted neighborhoods are also often unaware of what upkeep duties can be undertaken and by whom—public or private—as a result of the private or public designation of the alley.

THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine how the alleys in impacted neighborhoods are designated as public or private alleys and what upkeep responsibilities may be undertaken by private and/or public entities as a result of the designation.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,

Representatives from the City of Boston Public Works Department City of Boston Transportation Department, and other city agencies responsible for making or assisting the public in determining if an alley is public or private and what upkeep duties public and/or private entities can take in providing upkeep for an alley be invited to attend.

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED,

Representatives from impacted neighborhood associations be invited to attend, and that the hearing take place in one of the impacted neighborhoods.