

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY AND FRANK BAKER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-TWO

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS THE CLEANLINESS
AND SAFETY CONDITIONS AT CLIFFORD PARK

WHEREAS, The cleanliness and safety conditions of Clifford Park in Roxbury, one mile away from the Mass. and Cass. neighborhood, has become a public hazard to nearby residents, students, parents, senior citizens, and the general public; *and*

WHEREAS, In recent years, Clifford Park has become an open drug market and a large gathering space for the homeless, people with substance use disorders, and people with alcoholism; *and*

WHEREAS, Large piles of trash scatter the park due to this activity. This trash includes drug paraphernalia, needles, condoms, feminine products, human feces, glass bottles, and more. Needles hide in the mulch, which makes it an impossible task to find and remove them. This trash is a public safety hazard; *and*

WHEREAS, With the Mason Elementary School right across the street, Clifford Park provides a playground and much-needed green space for the neighborhood; *and*

WHEREAS, However, teachers refuse to allow their students to play in the park due to the trash and overall safety; *and*

WHEREAS, Coaches of local sports teams refuse to play at the park, forcing them to give up on some much-needed sports programs for the local children and teenagers; *and*

WHEREAS, Used needles need to be properly discarded immediately. No parent should worry that their child will get pricked by a needle while out on recess, playing in the nearby park; *and*

WHEREAS, There is also a risk of disease transmission if another person reuses a needle found on the ground; *and*

WHEREAS, The park, once looked at as a “safe haven” for children, is failing the people and children in this area of Roxbury; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to address this ongoing issue at Clifford Park and discuss preventative steps to stop Clifford Park from becoming a gathering spot for illegal activity. Representatives from the Mayor’s Office, Boston Public Health Commission, Police Department,

Parks & Recreation, Public Works, community leaders, youth leaders, and any other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: August 31st, 2022