



Medford City Council
Medford, Massachusetts

MEETING DATE

August 4, 2026

SPONSORED BY

Isaac Bears, Council President

AGENDA ITEM

26-136 - Resolution to Demand Tufts Reinstate Graduate Worker Facing Retaliation and Retribution

FULL TEXT AND DESCRIPTION

Whereas, a Tufts University international graduate worker recently faced retaliation by her adviser for reporting that they required her to work a significant amount of hours as an unpaid teaching assistant, which violated her union contract. Later, the graduate worker was removed from her doctoral program; and,

Whereas, the worker and her union identified that there were multiple contract violations over the course of the year and the worker has experienced retaliation for protected union activity about her working conditions; and,

Whereas, after experiencing this retaliation, Tufts University informed the worker on June 24th that she was disenrolled from her doctoral program and transferred to the masters of science program, forcing her out of the university in August; and,

Whereas, after being forced out of the doctoral program that she intended to complete, her student visa is expected to expire in September 2026. This worker was not even given the opportunity to find a different adviser at Tufts, and she is not being given sufficient time to apply to other doctoral programs or conduct a proper job search; now, therefore:

Be it Resolved by the Medford City Council that we call on Tufts to immediately re-enroll this student in her doctoral program.

Be it Further Resolved that we call on Tufts to award this worker compensation for losing her summer stipend and losing her doctoral program enrollment after reporting bargaining contract violations, provide transitional support to move to a new lab to remain in the program, and cease any future tolerance of retribution for protected union activity – especially at a university that claims to be committed to advancing equity and justice.

RECOMMENDATION

FISCAL IMPACT

ATTACHMENTS

None