



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

October 30, 2017

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order increasing the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off credit amount from a maximum of \$1,000 per fiscal year to a maximum of \$1,500 per fiscal year, effective Fiscal Year 2019. By increasing the credit amount, the City will be able to offer participating seniors the maximum allowable credit pursuant to Section 5K of c. 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as most recently amended by Section 127 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016. Most importantly, this increase will provide much needed tax relief to seniors, many of whom face increasing real estate taxes with limited sources of income.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order as soon as possible so that the City of Boston may offer the maximum allowable credit to Boston seniors through this important program.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER RELATIVE TO THE SENIOR CITIZEN PROPERTY TAX WORK-OFF ABATEMENT IN THE CITY OF BOSTON IN FY 2019.

WHEREAS, Housing costs for most Boston residents continue to rise, representing a particular burden for senior taxpayers who subsist on fixed incomes;

WHEREAS, In March 2006, the City passed a local option - the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off Abatement – to allow residents age sixty and above to earn a property tax reduction in exchange for volunteer services for the City;

WHEREAS, In June 2016, Mayor Martin J. Walsh and the City Council increased the qualifying income limits for the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off to \$40,000 and \$55,000 for single and married filers, respectively, and extended the program through Fiscal Year 2021, in addition to other programmatic improvements for the benefit of Boston seniors;

WHEREAS, Section 5K of c. 59 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as most recently amended by Section 127 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016, allows municipalities to increase the Senior Citizen Property Tax Work-Off deduction from \$1,000 to \$1,500, the first such increase in the reduction since July 2009;

NOW THEREFORE,

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston as follows:

Section 1.

City of Boston Code Chapter XII, Section 12-3.5(e)(1) shall be amended by deleting the words “one thousand (\$1,000.00)” and inserting in place thereof the words “one thousand five hundred (\$1,500.00)”.

Section 2.

The provisions of this ordinance shall be effective immediately.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.
BY _____
EUGENE L. O'FLAHERTY
CORPORATION COUNSEL *Gene*