



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE Pressley
O'Malley Baker Flynn Flaherty Janey McCarthy Wu Zakim Campbell and Ciommo

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING VACANT AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS and IMPROVING ACCESS TO THOSE UNITS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS: Mayor Walsh created the Boston 2030 Housing Plan in order to address the needs of a growing Boston. The plan sets the ambitious goal of creating 53,000 new units of housing by 2030; and

WHEREAS: Of those 53,000 units, there should be 44,000 units of workforce housing, and 5,000 units of senior housing as well as at least 1,500 affordable units for extremely low income households; and

WHEREAS: Currently the City is at 108% of the target pace needed to create 1,500 new units for extremely low income households by 2030 having permitted 422 new units, 348 of which have been targeted to homeless households; and

WHEREAS: The inclusionary development policy leverages new affordable housing through private development as well as expands the City's resources to develop additional affordable housing; and

WHEREAS: Access to affordable housing is managed through multiple City agencies: the Boston Planning and Development Agency, Department of Neighborhood Development, Boston Housing Authority and the Office of Fair Housing. Private developers, non-profit community development corporations and management companies also play an important role; and

WHEREAS: Boston's Department of Fair Housing and Equity has recently reported that there are currently 37 projects including 839 units of vacant affordable housing in the City of Boston; and

WHEREAS: The process to access both ownership and rental affordable units is irregular and unpredictable for those paying increasingly more of their disposable income for housing costs, experiencing homelessness and in emergency assistance; and

WHEREAS: Affordable housing will continue to make the City of Boston a more inclusive and diverse City; **THEREFORE, BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to determine strategies for streamlining the process to apply for affordable housing and to create a more rapid and efficient process for occupying affordable housing units. Interested parties should be invited to participate such as the Department of Neighborhood

Development, Boston Planning and Development Agency, Boston Housing Authority, the Office of Housing Stability, the Office of Fair Housing, private developers and our non-profit community development partners.

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