



# CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Offered by Councilors Kim Janey and Annissa Essaibi-George

## ORDER FOR A HEARING ON SOBER HOUSING IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

**WHEREAS:** Sober housing encompasses a broad range of community-based recovery and reentry services, including short-term and long-term residential programs, and including programs required as a condition of probation or parole; and,

**WHEREAS:** Sober housing fills an important housing need for individuals with substance abuse disorder. Individuals who seek sober housing have a right to know that their housing is safe, well-maintained, and supportive; and,

**WHEREAS:** Some sober homes have obtained voluntary certification from the Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing. However, sober homes are not required to obtain licensure from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts or the City of Boston; and,

**WHEREAS:** It is critical that sober homes provide sufficient services and supports for their residents, and particularly imperative that they do not detract from the efforts of persons in recovery; and,

**WHEREAS:** The recent arrest and indictment of a sober home operator in Roxbury shows that the lack of regulation over sober housing represents a risk to public safety and an opportunity for abuse; and,

**WHEREAS:** Many sober homes may offer excellent recovery services, and engage with neighborhood community groups. Many others offer few services and have little relationship with their local neighborhood community groups. Sober homes ought be accessible to all Bostonians desiring them, regardless of race or socioeconomic status; and,

**WHEREAS:** Sober homes certified by the Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing are clustered primarily in Dorchester and Roxbury, and have a significant impact on residents in those neighborhoods. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the state of sober housing in the City of Boston. Representatives from the Massachusetts Alliance for Sober Housing, the Mayor’s Office of Recovery Services, the Mayor’s Office of Neighborhood Services, the Inspectional Services Division, the Boston Police Department, and other interested parties shall be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: **June 1, 2018**