

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS EDWARD M. FLYNN, CULPEPPER, FITZGERALD,
MEJIA, AND MURPHY**



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A FEDERAL
INVESTIGATION INTO BOSTON HOUSING
AUTHORITY (BHA) ELEVATOR FAILURES**

WHEREAS, For years, residents in Boston Housing Authority (BHA) developments across Boston have endured repeated elevator failures that have left them trapped in their apartments, forced to miss medical appointments, unable to access groceries, and cut off from their families and daily life; *and*

WHEREAS, On both November 22, 2024 and October 16, 2025, the Boston City Council Committee on Housing and Community Development held a hearing to discuss the status of the elevators at BHA Ruth Barkley Apartments. At the hearing, residents shared that the broken elevators have caused them to miss critical services and difficulties making it to their bathroom in time. In one instance, it was reported these issues caused a resident to miss most of their child's funeral; *and*

WHEREAS, Most recently, a resident, a double amputee, disabled veteran, was not able to get into his apartment to get his medication as a result of a reported 22-hour elevator failure. Consequently, he was forced to sleep outside of South Station overnight because BHA did not provide him with a hotel voucher to stay while he could not access his apartment. BHA staff insisted that he call the fire department to carry him upstairs, an option that left him with feeling he was not treated with dignity and respect; *and*

WHEREAS, On May 11, 2026, the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) was fined \$363,000 (with a reduction to 1%, amounting to \$3,630) as a result of the investigation into the Ruth Barkley Apartments' elevator failures by the Massachusetts Architectural Access Board (MAAB); *and*

WHEREAS, The Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has the authority to investigate whether BHA is violating federal housing quality standards or failing to maintain safe access; *and*

WHEREAS, At this time, the Boston Housing Authority should be subject to a federal investigation by HUD due to ongoing elevator failures that have left our seniors and persons with disabilities without reliable access to their homes. A federal investigation will help determine whether systematic maintenance failures and potential violations of civil rights have placed vulnerable residents at risk; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council calls for a federal investigation into the Boston Housing Authority (BHA) elevator failures.

Filed on: June 3, 2026