

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE AND BRIAN WORELL, BOK, BAKER, FLAHERTY, BREADON, LARA, MEJIA, MURPHY AND FLYNN



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO UTILIZE AMERICAN  
RESCUE PLAN ACT FEDERAL AND STATE COVID  
RECOVERY FUNDS TO CREATE HOUSING OPTIONS FOR  
RETURNING CITIZENS

**WHEREAS,** Increasing affordable and transitional housing in Boston is critical to the success of re-entry: a recent Boston reentry study indicates that twelve months after prison, 43 percent of individuals were staying in transitional or marginal housing; and

**WHEREAS,** Even when a Parole Board grants a positive parole vote to an individual, it is not a guarantee of the individual's release as they must have an approved home plan, but a home plan is often denied because the client may not be listed as a tenant on a Section 8 lease due to federal regulations making it difficult for parolees to live with family in Section 8 housing; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Newly released returning citizens, including parolees and probationers, face chronic homelessness and housing instability require dedicated financial housing supports and assistance, including providing a continuum of care of job training and placement, vocational training, credit building, primary health care, mental health, wellness, and substance abuse programs; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Federal and State funds for Boston's Covid-19 recovery can create the opportunity to invest in our formerly incarcerated individuals and housing that makes Boston a more equitable city while creating a city that prioritizes stability for those who need it the most; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Our prison and punishment system upholds a structurally racist society by disproportionately imprisoning those in Black and Latinx communities and perpetuates those inequities by not providing resources for housing opportunities for those recently released from incarceration; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss utilizing ARPA federal and state Covid-19 recovery funds to create housing options for returning citizens and that the Office of Returning Citizens, Mayor's Office of Housing, Boston Housing Authority, and related departments, government entities, non-profits, and interested individuals be invited to testify.

Filed in Council: April 27, 2022