

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT'S (HUD) REPORT OF BOSTON HOUSING AUTHORITY (BHA)

**WHEREAS:** Established in 1935, Boston Housing Authority (BHA) is the largest housing provider in Boston and oversees approximately 10,000 rental units of public housing in Boston and houses more than 17,000 people under its public housing program; *and*

**WHEREAS:** On February 25, 2025, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Office of Inspector General released a report on the BHA and found that BHA "did not consistently maintain its program units and buildings public housing program units in decent, safe, and sanitary condition and in good repair," and "did not consistently perform its annual self inspections and correct identified deficiencies in a timely manner."; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The audit reported that both public housing units and buildings had deficiencies, and that these deficiencies - categorized into life-threatening and non-life threatening - were not addressed in a timely manner; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The report found that 31 out of 36 housing units that were inspected had deficiencies, and over a third had life threatening deficiencies that needed to be corrected within 24 hours. Of the 29 buildings that were inspected, over 80% had 105 deficiencies; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The types of life threatening deficiencies include missing or inoperable smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, security hazards, blocked egress, electrical hazards, and inoperable fire exits were found in units and buildings. Over half of the deficiencies had existed at the time of the authority's last inspections; *and*

**WHEREAS:** In addition, the authority's assistant directors and program maintenance supervisors did not meet their monthly 5% reinspection threshold. More concerning, the report shared that BHA provided the last quarterly inspection report for only 7 of the BHA's 24 buildings with deficiencies, and that it could not locate the last quarterly report for the remaining 17 buildings; *and*

**WHEREAS:** In November 2024, the Boston City Council held a hearing to discuss issues relating to frequent elevator breakdown issues at the Ruth Barkley BHA Apartments. This is but one of a larger, more concerning scale of problems within BHA housing. In October 2025, the City Council held a follow up hearing on this issue; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Our public housing residents are some of the most vulnerable residents in the City. Boston must not allow its low-income and elderly housing to fall into despair; *and*

**WHEREAS:** It is critical that we discuss the issues at the BHA to see how we can best support their work to ensure that it gets back on track in addressing the deficiencies identified in the HUD report. We must ensure that all units meet HUD's and BHA's own requirements and that our public housing residents live in a safe, decent and sanitary environment with their units and buildings in a state of good repair; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the concerning HUD report of the BHA and the changes needed to comply with all requirements in order to make substantial improvements for our low income and elderly residents housing. Representatives from the Boston Housing Authority and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

**Filed in Council: January 29, 2026**