



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING ON BUILDING A STRONGER FAIR HOUSING FUTURE FOR BOSTON

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston must continue to uphold the principles of fairness, equality, and justice in housing, in alignment with the Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of residential dwellings, and in other residential real estate related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Today, federal, state, and municipal laws prohibit discrimination in the sale and rental of housing by property owners and managers, landlords, mortgage lenders, and real estate agents, including the Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Community Reinvestment Act, and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, MA anti-discrimination law M.G.L. c. 151B, and City of Boston ordinance C.B.C 10-3.1, however inequity and injustice remain pervasive; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston's fair housing landscape has been profoundly shaped by the legacy of Robert "Bob" Terrell III, a civil rights leader, educator, and former Executive Director of the Office of Fair Housing and Equity, whose lifetime of work advanced enforcement, public education, affirmative marketing oversight, and whose passing has underscored the critical need for strong, stable, and visionary leadership to guide the City's primary civil rights and fair housing enforcement agency; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Effective fair housing enforcement relies on robust testing, monitoring, adjudication, and proactive oversight, including substantial equivalency practices that enable the City to detect discrimination, intervene early, and ensure meaningful remedies for residents facing bias in rental, sales, lending, or marketing processes; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Persistent disparities in access to housing opportunities and neighborhood choice, rooted in a history of racial segregation and discriminatory real estate practices, require a proactive, reparative, and community-centered approach grounded in data-driven assessment, meaningful collaboration among residents, advocates, and legal service providers, and a clear commitment by the City to fully support and strengthen its fair housing enforcement infrastructure, including testing, investigations, adjudication, and leadership; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address these concerns, evaluate current practices, hear from community members and experts, and formulate comprehensive strategies to strengthen fair housing in the City of Boston.