



OFFICE OF  
**RICARDO ARROYO**  
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR  
DISTRICT 5

April 27, 2022

Councilor Ed Flynn  
Council President, City Council  
1 City Hall Square, Suite 550  
Boston, MA 02201

Re: Absence from April 27 City Council Meeting

Dear Council President Flynn,

Please be advised that I will not be in attendance at the Boston City Council meeting on Wednesday, April 27, 2022.

My staff will be attending the meeting and I will thoroughly review the video, and meeting minutes.

Please ask that the City Clerk read this matter into the public record. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Ricardo Arroyo  
Boston City Councilor, District 5



OFFICE OF  
**RICARDO ARROYO**  
BOSTON CITY COUNCILOR  
DISTRICT 5

April 27, 2022

Councilor Ed Flynn  
Council President, City Council  
1 City Hall Square, Suite 550  
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Council President Flynn,

As the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, I would like to express my support to bring Docket 0321: Petition for a Special Law re: Securing Environmental Justice in the City of Boston to the floor and defer to my vice chair Councilor Louijeune to pull it from the Green Sheets. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ricardo Arroyo".

Ricardo Arroyo  
Boston City Councilor, District 5

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE AND BRIAN WORELL



## 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

Offered by City Councilor Lydia Edwards



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### Home Rule Petition

**ORDERED:** That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the required scope of the general public objectives of the petition:

#### **PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE: SECURING ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

##### **SECTION 1.**

The General Court finds and declares that a serious state of emergency exists in the City of Boston regarding environmental injustice and climate change, whereby residents of the City suffer from air and water pollution and a lack of open space and tree canopy, and whereby environmental justice communities bear a disproportionate burden of industrial pollution, risk of extreme heat and flood, and displacement from natural and unnatural forces, and further finds that additional safeguards are needed to secure the environmental rights afforded to all residents pursuant to Article XCVII of the Massachusetts Constitution with regards to the siting and operation of energy and industrial projects.

##### **SECTION 2.**

Section 6 of Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, is hereby amended by striking out the section in its entirety and inserting in place thereof the following section:-

The Boston Zoning Commission shall in consultation with the state Environmental Advisory Council, Public Service Corporations, environmental justice advocates within one calendar year of enactment of this section, promulgate zoning rules and regulations to govern the review of filings, petitions or proposals by public service corporations and the standards for environmental justice enforcement within the City of Boston's building code

**SECTION 3.**

Section 7 of Chapter 665 of the Acts of 1956, as amended, is hereby amended by inserting at the conclusion of Section 7 the following paragraph:-

Upon a determination that a use or a proposed use of a building, structure, facility, or land in the City of Boston would impede the attainment of environmental rights afforded to residents of the Commonwealth pursuant to Article XCVII of the Massachusetts Constitution, or prevent the implementation of the Environmental Justice principles as defined in Chapter 8 of the Acts of 2021, or prevent the preservation and protection of the rights in tidelands of the inhabitants of the Commonwealth as defined in Chapter 91 of the General Laws, the Building Commissioner of the City of Boston may issue a stop work order. The Building Commissioner shall indicate the purpose, rationale, conditions and duration or permanency of such order, and provide instruction to public officers concerning the suspension or rescission of any permit, license or authorization associated with such use or proposed use. The Building Commissioner shall within one year of enforcement, submit a report that at the very minimum summarizes the enforcement process, number of complaints, any disparities, information about repeat offenders. This report shall be made public and presented to the City Council.

**SECTION 4.** The provisions of this ordinance are severable and if any provision, or portion thereof, should be held to be unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such unconstitutionality or invalidity shall not affect the remaining provisions, which remain in full force and effect.