

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR AN IMMEDIATE HOUSING STABILIZATION RESPONSE SYSTEM FOR BOSTON RESIDENTS WHO INVOLUNTARILY LOSE WORK AUTHORIZATION DUE TO FEDERAL CHANGES IN IMMIGRATION POLICY

WHEREAS, Temporary Protected Status and related employment authorization for Haitian and Syrian beneficiaries recently expired following federal action and litigation, abruptly placing thousands of residents at risk of losing lawful employment and household income; Temporary Protected Status for El Salvador is currently scheduled to expire on September 9, 2026; and federal actions have also terminated or threatened protections for residents from countries including Honduras, Nicaragua, Nepal, Venezuela, Afghanistan, and others; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is home to generations of immigrants who are integral to the civic, cultural, and economic life of our City, and abrupt changes in federal immigration policy can have immediate local consequences for employers and employees, schools, tenants and landlords, and the City's housing and shelter systems; *and*

WHEREAS, Preventing displacement before a household enters the eviction or shelter system is both more humane and more effective than attempting to restore housing after it has been lost; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston, through the Office of Housing Stability, Mayor's Office of Housing, Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement, and community and nonprofit partners, has existing tools to connect residents with rental assistance, eviction prevention, landlord mediation, legal services, and other housing supports; *and*

WHEREAS, These existing resources must be better coordinated so that residents experiencing a sudden loss of income or housing stability because of an involuntary loss of employment authorization can quickly access assistance without undue bureaucracy, navigating multiple agencies, or unnecessarily disclosing sensitive immigration information; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston should establish a clear and coordinated housing stability response for households experiencing loss of income following the termination of Temporary Protected Status or another federal immigration designation, providing

residents with a single point of contact and expedited access to housing stabilization resources; *and*

WHEREAS, Such a response could include appropriate language capacity; priority contact and response by the Office of Housing Stability; immediate screening and application assistance for Residential Assistance for Families in Transition and other rental assistance programs; referral to legal counsel where a Notice to Quit has been issued or an eviction proceeding has commenced; landlord outreach and mediation; screening for other qualifying funds and programs; and referral to qualified immigration service providers and counsel as necessary; *and*

WHEREAS, The City could establish a single point of entry for affected households seeking assistance and avoid requiring residents to disclose their status except where such information is legally necessary; *and*

WHEREAS, The City should also determine whether existing housing stabilization resources, including the Tenant Stabilization Fund, can be dedicated or supplemented to provide temporary assistance to households facing an immediate threat of displacement or homelessness; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the Mayor's Office, Mayor's Office of Housing, Office of Housing Stability, and Mayor's Office for Immigrant Advancement to establish a coordinated Housing Stability Response for Boston households experiencing a substantial loss of income resulting from the termination, expiration, revocation, or other involuntary loss of employment authorization, including expedited access to rental assistance, eviction prevention, legal services, landlord mediation, benefits navigation, and immigration legal assistance; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the Administration to identify and prioritize available resources for affected households and, where existing resources are insufficient, to identify additional resources and streamline access to assistance in order to prevent avoidable eviction, displacement, and homelessness among Boston residents affected by changes in work authorization due to federal immigration policy.