

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MURPHY,
PEPÉN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ESTABLISHING A
COMMUNITY PREFERENCE POLICY FOR
AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT TO
MITIGATE DISPLACEMENT IN BOSTON
NEIGHBORHOODS**

- WHEREAS,** Boston is experiencing a housing affordability crisis, with rapidly rising housing costs displacing long-term residents and families, particularly in historically marginalized and low-income neighborhoods; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston seeks to promote equitable access to housing, prevent displacement, and ensure that long-standing residents benefit from new housing developments in their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** Several cities, including San Francisco, California, have implemented a Community Preference Policy that reserves a percentage of affordable housing units for residents of the neighborhood or district where the development is located; and
- WHEREAS,** San Francisco's Community Preference Policy, established in 2015, reserves up to 40% of affordable housing units for local residents, helping to reduce displacement and stabilize neighborhoods impacted by gentrification; and
- WHEREAS,** The implementation of a similar policy in Boston would prioritize access to affordable housing for residents of communities facing economic pressures and displacement, aligning with the City's goals of racial and economic equity; and
- WHEREAS,** A Boston-based Community Preference Policy should be designed in compliance with federal and state fair housing laws to avoid discriminatory impacts and ensure equitable outcomes for all eligible residents; and
- WHEREAS,** The adoption of a Community Preference Policy would complement existing housing strategies by offering residents increased opportunities to remain in their neighborhoods while fostering more sustainable and inclusive communities;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council urges the Mayor and the Boston Planning & Development Agency (BPDA), in collaboration with the Mayor's Office of Housing (MOH), to develop and implement a Community Preference Policy for affordable housing developments in the City of Boston; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That such a policy prioritize a substantial percentage of affordable housing units for residents of the neighborhood or district in which the housing is being developed, with safeguards to promote fairness, transparency, and compliance with fair housing laws; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council encourages community engagement and input in the development of this policy to ensure it addresses the specific needs and priorities of Boston's diverse neighborhoods.

Filed on: February 12, 2025