

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD M. FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

RESOLUTION AGAINST THE APPROVAL AND CONSTRUCTION OF ADDITIONAL ROOF DECKS IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS OF SOUTH BOSTON

WHEREAS, In the last couple of decades, with a changing town and South Boston having become a destination for young people to visit each weekend, the proliferation of roof decks in residential areas of South Boston has raised significant concerns among residents - including our seniors, veterans, persons with disabilities, young families with children - related to noise at all hours of the night, smoking, privacy, trash removal impacting our existing pest control crisis, and other quality of life issues; *and*

WHEREAS, Especially since the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, the approval of roof decks through zoning relief has generated strong opposition from both long-time neighbors and local civic groups while raising broader concerns about consistency in the community process. For years during the pandemic, dozens of proposals were denied at the Zoning Board of Appeal (ZBA) based on input from residents and civic groups. However, in recent years, there have been many cases where neighbors and civic organizations have supported new developments specifically due to good-faith compromises with developers and owners on removal of roof decks during the community process. Years later, these same roof decks were proposed again and approved by the ZBA with residents feeling their objections have gone unheard or disregarded altogether; *and*

WHEREAS, The Boston Zoning Code was created by city officials in 1964. Since then, Boston's landscape has changed drastically. The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) regulates the rules behind what can be built and where. Article 68-29 of the Zoning Code governs roof structure restrictions in South Boston, which outlines strict requirements for it to be in compliance; *and*

WHEREAS, Residents continue to express concerns that additional roof decks in residential areas of South Boston do not in any way help to address our housing and affordable housing crisis, their opinion that there is no hardship that should be granted zoning relief, and that individual property owners should not continue to benefit over the objections of many concerns neighbors and civic organizations; *and*

WHEREAS, As South Boston neighbors continue to experience quality of life issues emanating from the construction of additional roof decks in residential areas,

including noise disturbances and trash removal concerns, residents of the neighborhood deserve a say in what takes place and gets built in their community;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council opposes the approval and construction of additional roof decks in residential areas of South Boston.

Filed on: March 18, 2026