

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS PROBLEM PROPERTIES IN BOSTON

WHEREAS: The Problem Properties Task Force has identified a list of “problem properties” in the City of Boston that pose risks to public safety and neighborhood well-being; *and*

WHEREAS: Properties are designated as “problem properties” based on factors such as code violations, repeated calls to public safety agencies, and other incident reports; *and*

WHEREAS: Approximately 60 percent of the City’s problem properties are located in Dorchester, placing a disproportionate burden on residents in these areas and underscoring the need for targeted intervention and enforcement; *and*

WHEREAS: The Problem Properties Task Force works with multiple City departments and agencies to investigate problem properties and hold owners accountable for unresolved issues; *and*

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts State House has passed the City’s Home Rule Petition allowing increased fines for absentee landlords, but these changes have not yet been fully implemented; *and*

WHEREAS: Ongoing concerns about problem properties show the need for stronger coordination and more effective use of enforcement tools to protect community safety and quality of life; *and*

WHEREAS: It is necessary to review how existing enforcement tools, including newly authorized fine increases, can be implemented and integrated into the City’s broader strategy for addressing problem properties; *and*

WHEREAS: It should be proposed that a report summarizing the findings and recommendations from the hearing shall be submitted to the Boston City Council for further action; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council shall convene a hearing to examine the issue of problem properties within the City of Boston. Representatives from relevant City departments and agencies, as well as community stakeholders, shall be invited to provide testimony and discuss potential strategies for addressing problem properties and enhancing public safety.

The hearing shall explore how to strengthen the Problem Properties Task Force, improve coordination among City departments, law enforcement agencies, and community members, and implement newly authorized enforcement tools, including increased fines for absentee landlords, with the goal of fostering safer and more vibrant neighborhoods across Boston.

Filed in City Council: January 23, 2026