

Offered by Councilors Brian Worrell and Michael Flaherty, Kenzie Bok, ARROYO, BAKER, BREADON, FERNANDES ANDERSON, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, MEJIA and FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING ALLOCATING ARPA FUNDS TO A HOMEOWNERSHIP VOUCHER PROGRAM

- WHEREAS:** The cost of housing in the City of Boston continues to rise with many long-term residents and middle class families being priced out of the City; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Many residents do not qualify for current housing assistance programs but still need some form of relief in order to purchase a home in the City; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Many City Councilors have expressed support for \$100 million in federal relief funds to be dedicated to affordable homeownership; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There are successful existing partnerships that help increase the buying power for income eligible, first time homebuyers within the City, such as ONE+ Boston Mortgage Program; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There are a very limited number of financial institutions that provide service to our first-time home buyers mortgage programs; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Providing direct assistance for first-time, income eligible residents to purchase homes could help residents build generational wealth and align with our efforts to close the racial homeownership, wealth, health and opportunity gaps; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Boston Housing Authority already has a program called the Section 8 Homeownership Program that allows voucher holders to subsidize a mortgage payment; *and*
- WHEREAS:** We should explore new tools to provide affordable housing by allocating ARPA funds towards income assistance housing vouchers for long-term residents who have been impacted by housing discrimination to become homebuyers; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Pursuant to said Section 9901, Title VI of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801 et. seq.) was amended by adding the following: SEC. 602. CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND,” and funds are available as a direct payment to the City; therefore, the City should create a housing voucher program using these funds to provide assistance to residents that fall within various income levels AMI. **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine using ARPA funds to create a homeownership voucher program. Representatives from the Administration, the Mayor's Office of Housing, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: April 8, 2022