

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, HENRY SANTANA, BENJAMIN WEBER, BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, AND WORRELL



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO UTILIZE FORMER SCHOOL AND MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS AS AFFORDABLE HOUSING

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston must recognize the urgent need to address the housing affordability crisis and the critical shortage of affordable housing throughout the city;  
*and*

**WHEREAS,** Numerous municipal buildings including schools, police stations, libraries, and other public buildings are currently, or will soon become, vacant or underutilized, and the conversion of these municipal assets presents a significant opportunity to increase the inventory of affordable housing; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The City's 2022 City Land Audit Report is an inventory of all property owned by the City of Boston and its quasi-City agencies, originally identifying 9.5 million square feet of land, representing 5.4% of the 176.9 million square feet under City ownership, and outlines a comprehensive plan for public land use which aims to create inclusive, affordable communities and address homelessness;

**WHEREAS,** The Federal Government Agencies Affordable Housing Conversion Act of 2024 supports these types of initiatives, encouraging local governments to repurpose their real estate assets for residential use; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In 2023 the BPDA launched the Downtown Residential Conversion Incentive Pilot Program, which provides incentives for converting office buildings into residential buildings, designed to help increase economic activity in Downtown Boston by increasing the amount of people living downtown, while helping stabilize the office market; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The repurposing of these municipal assets must align with our goals of sustainable affordable housing development and the efficient use of city resources with the creation of housing that would minimize new construction costs, preserve the architectural heritage of our city, and provide critical support for affordable housing;  
**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing that the City shall prioritize the conversion of former school and municipal buildings into affordable housing, and invite interested parties, including community organizations, and potential affordable housing developers to attend.