

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS KENDRA LARA & GABRIELA COLETTA, LARA, ARROYO, BREADON, BOK, FERNANDES ANDERSON, MEJIA, LOUIJEUNE, WORRELL AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ASSESSING THE NEED FOR A TEXT AMENDMENT FOR THE BOSTON ZONING CODE RELATIVE TO SPECIAL PROTECTION ZONES

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is ranked the fourth-most-expensive city for renters in the United States, with a median monthly rent of \$2,600 on a newly listed one-bedroom apartment, according to a July 2022 report by the rental company Zumper; **and**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston ranks 7th in income inequality of cities in the United States, according to a 2018 report from Boston Indicators; **and**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is experiencing high levels of gentrification, making it the third most intensely gentrified city in the United States between 2013-2017, according to a 2020 study by the National Community Reinvestment Coalition; **and**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is suffering from the displacement of people of color and low-income residents at unprecedented levels, according to the 2020 United States Census.; **and**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has committed itself to increasing the production of affordable housing for residents of all income levels but with particular emphasis on low to moderate-income people; **and**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston's zoning code requires new measures to address the problems of gentrification, displacement, and the need for additional affordable housing; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss Special Protection Zones in the current Boston Zoning Code to assess if there are ways to decrease the displacement of people of color & low-income residents. Representatives from the Boston Planning and Development Agency (BPDA), Mayor's Office and Housing (MOH), affordable housing organizations, community groups, and other interested parties are invited to testify.

Filed in Council: October 14, 2022