

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ED FLYNN, BREADON, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPEN, SANTANA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF H.R. 8560, the *End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2024*

**WHEREAS:** According to the Department of Veteran Affairs (VA), VA Boston housed more than 360 veterans experiencing homelessness so far this year. Many of those veterans have disabilities including chronic mental illness, substance abuse, and physical disabilities; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The Department of Veteran Affairs (VA) and Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) have joint initiatives to put an end to veteran homelessness. Other federal, state, faith-based, Veteran Services Office (VSO) and community partners have made significant inroads in decreasing veteran homelessness. Through enhanced collaboration, we can further strengthen our efforts to ensure safe and affordable housing to our veterans who have bravely served our country; *and*

**WHEREAS:** H.R. 8560, *the End Veteran Homelessness Act* would provide case managers who will solely focus on the betterment and assistance of our veterans. The bill would authorize payment of administrative fees to the public housing agencies for costs of eligible expenses including vouchers; *and*

**WHEREAS:** According to the House Committee on Veteran Affairs, there are currently tens of thousands of unused HUD-Veterans Affairs Supportive Housing (HUD-VASH) vouchers. H.R. 8560 will broaden the population of veterans eligible to access these unused vouchers that could lead to permanent housing for more than 20,000 homeless veterans. H.R. 8560 will also fund the costs for the leasing of vouchers, such as security deposits and other expenses related to retention and support of participating owners, to improve stability for our homeless veterans and accessibility to the supportive services needed to successfully reintegrate back into civilian life; *and*

**WHEREAS:** The legislation would further mandate the Government Accounting Office to complete and submit a report with significant information pertaining to the VA HUD-VASH program to certain congressional committees. The HUD-VASH program is currently already a successful program, and modernizing it would bring us closer to our end goal of ending veteran homelessness; *and*

**WHEREAS:** Our veterans have devoted their lives to protecting our country. They represent the very best of our nation. We have the moral obligation to take care of our nation's heroes and ensure that all of our veterans have a place they can call home; *and*

#### **NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:**

That the Boston City Council strongly supports the passage of H.R. 8560, *the End Veteran Homelessness Act of 2024* in Congress, and urges prompt action in the passage of this legislation.

**Filed on:** October 30, 2024