



City of Boston
Mayor Kim Janey

October 18, 2021

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I transmit herewith for your approval a home rule petition to the General Court entitled "Petition for a Special Law Re: Expanding the Authority of the Public Facilities Commission with Respect to Housing Stabilization."

Currently, the Public Facilities Commission (the "PFC") is enabled to purchase land for a public purpose, such as a fire station, library, or school. This Home Rule Petition will expand this authority by allowing the PFC to purchase properties for the purposes of housing stabilization. This enhanced authority will allow the Department of Neighborhood Development new opportunities to create affordable, income restricted housing, which also could be paired with public facilities or limited other non-residential uses such as commercial, community, or non-profit uses.

Boston needs to apply as many tools as possible to create the affordable housing this city needs, and this would be an invaluable tool in that effort.

I urge your Honorable Body to pass this Home Rule Petition expeditiously so we can begin to advocate for passage at the State House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kim Janey", written over a circular stamp or seal.

Kim Janey
Acting Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

- WHEREAS, according to 2019 American Community Survey Data, 48 percent of Boston renters are cost burdened by paying more than 30 percent of their income in rent; and
- WHEREAS, housing costs continue to rise across the City, further exacerbating the shortage of low cost housing available to a range of incomes; and
- WHEREAS, these conditions will only be ameliorated through the creation of additional income restricted housing; and
- WHEREAS, the powers of the City of Boston Public Facilities Commission are limited, creating an obstacle to the purchase of property for the creation of income restricted housing.

NOW THEREFORE IT BE ORDERED,

That a petition to the General Court, accompanied by a bill for a special law relating to the City of Boston to be filed with an attested copy of this order be, and hereby is, approved under Clause 1 of Section 8 of Article II, as amended, of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, provided that the Legislature may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives in this petition.

PETITION FOR A SPECIAL LAW RE:

EXPANDING THE AUTHORITY OF THE PUBLIC FACILITIES COMMISSION WITH RESPECT TO HOUSING STABILIZATION

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this Act is to expand the Public Facilities Commission's ability to acquire land for the purpose of housing stabilization. It is intended to further the Department of Neighborhood Development's mission of ensuring that the citizens of the City of Boston can find, maintain, and stay in their homes.

SECTION 2. DEFINITIONS

For the purposes of this Petition, "housing stabilization" shall mean "activities including but not limited to the acquisition of land and property for affordable housing uses whereby at least 40% of the units are or will be income restricted, as well as other, non-residential uses, including but not limited to commercial, community, and non-profit uses."

SECTION 3.

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

The first paragraph of Section 31 of Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909, as amended by Section 12 of Chapter 642 of the Acts of 1966, is hereby amended by, in line 4, inserting the following after the words "for any municipal purpose":- or for the purpose of housing stabilization.

SECTION 4.

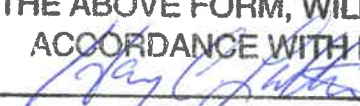
The first paragraph of Section 31 of Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909, as amended by Section 12 of Chapter 642 of the Acts of 1966, is hereby amended by, in line 13, inserting the following after the words "for any municipal purpose":- or for the purpose of housing stabilization.

SECTION 5.

The first paragraph of Section 31A of Chapter 486 of the Acts of 1909, as amended by Section 12 of Chapter 642 of the Acts of 1966, is hereby amended by, in line 7, inserting the following after the words "for any municipal purpose":- or for the purpose of housing stabilization.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE

This Act shall take effect upon passage.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.
BY  _____
HENRY C. LUTHIN
CORPORATION COUNSEL