

Offered by Councilors Brian Worrell and Tania Fernandes Anderson, Arroyo, Bok, Breadon, Coletta, Flaherty, Louijeune, Lara, Mejia, Murphy, Baker, and Flynn



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING EFFORTS TO INCREASE HOUSING AFFORDABILITY FOR LONG-TERM RESIDENTS

- WHEREAS:** The cost of housing in the City of Boston continues to rise, pricing out many long-term and middle-class families; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Many of these residents do not qualify for current housing assistance programs despite continued need for relief and assistance in order to purchase a home in the city; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Boston operates several existing partnerships that help to increase the buying power of income-eligible first time homebuyers within the City including the ONE+ Boston Mortgage Program; *and*
- WHEREAS:** There is a limited number of financial institutions that provide service to our first-time homebuyers mortgage programs; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Providing direct assistance for first-time, income-eligible residents to purchase homes could help communities to build generational wealth, as well as help the City to close racial gaps in homeownership, wealth, health, and opportunities; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The Boston Housing Authority already has a Section 8 Homeownership Program that allows voucher holders to subsidize mortgage payments; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City and Council have explored mechanisms to allocate ARPA funds to support home-buying opportunities among long-term residents who have been impacted by housing discrimination, allowing many to become homeowners; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Boston must continue to build on its efforts to open residency and homeownership to all—and particularly its vulnerable long-term residents— by targeting AMI levels often left unsupported; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the efficacy of the Section 8 Homeownership Voucher Program, as well as ways in which the City may expand these opportunities, and that representatives from the Administration, the Mayor’s Office of Housing, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: January 27, 2023