

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Kendra Lara, Worrell, Baker, Bok, Louijeune, Flynn, Fernandes Anderson, Arroyo, Breadon, Flaherty and Murphy



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING ON WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
HOUSING FOR CITY OF BOSTON EMPLOYEES**

WHEREAS, The City of Boston Code Section 5-5.3 states that “ Every person first employed by the City of Boston on or after July 1, 1976, shall be a resident of the City of Boston, and shall not cease to be a resident of the City of Boston during his employment by the City;” *and*

WHEREAS, Boston is the third most expensive city in the United States to rent in, according to a recently released report by digital home renting service Zumper, with the median rent price for a 1-bedroom in Boston at \$2,660, up by slightly over 27% in one year and the median rent for a 2-bedroom in the city at \$2,990, up by 15% in the past year; *and*

WHEREAS, In 2020, the Department of Health and Human Services set the federal poverty level at \$27,750 for a family of four, and the Boston Planning and Development Agency states that 70% of the Area Median Income, the ceiling at which most affordable units are designated, is \$84,550; *and*

WHEREAS, Data from the 2021 Employee Earnings Report finds that roughly 7500 individuals on the city’s payroll earned a yearly wage between the poverty wage of \$27,750 and the Area Median Income of 70% at \$84,550; *and*

WHEREAS, In a time when housing prices are increasing beyond the means most people can afford, and many residents are choosing to leave the city to find affordable homes elsewhere, city employees are forced to find subsidized or substandard housing to keep their jobs with the city; *and*

WHEREAS, Cities and towns across the United States are creating housing subsidies or building units explicitly designated for city and county employees; *and*

WHEREAS, Teton County, Wyoming, currently owns 24 employee rental units, which they rent out to public servants. The Residences at Government Center in Washington D.C. was built on previously vacant county-owned land and is open to low- to moderate-income county and private-sector employees; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has a hardworking and dedicated workforce who deserve to have access to resources and housing that allows them to stay in the City of Boston; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED:

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss workforce development housing for City of Boston employees, representatives from the City of Boston, including the Office of Fair Housing and Equity, the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Office of Workforce Development, and the Boston Housing Authority, in addition to housing advocates and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: May 11, 2022