

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN J. MURPHY



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO-THOUSAND AND TWENTY-FIVE

ORDER OF COUNCILOR-AT-LARGE ERIN J. MURPHY

Second 17F Request for Disclosure of Individual Recipients of City-Funded Down Payment Assistance Grants Disbursed Since 2021

WHEREAS, on April 2, 2025, the Boston City Council passed Docket #0774, a Section 17F order requesting detailed information on down payment assistance grants disbursed since 2021; and

WHEREAS, the response received, filed under Docket #2025-0949 on April 16, 2025, included only aggregate numerical data without identifying individual grant recipients; and

WHEREAS, the disclosure of individual recipients of public funds is a standard practice in the City of Boston, as evidenced by the publication of recipients of other city-administered grants, such as those funded by the American Rescue Plan Act; and

WHEREAS, the refusal to disclose individual recipient information under the pretext of privacy concerns is inconsistent with the City's commitment to transparency and accountability in the use of public funds; and

WHEREAS, the lack of detailed information impedes the City Council's ability to perform its oversight functions and undermines public trust in the equitable distribution of housing assistance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED: That the appropriate department(s) provide the Boston City Council, within 14 days of the passage of this order, with a comprehensive list of all individual recipients of down payment assistance grants funded by the City of Boston since January 1, 2021. This list should include:

- 1. Recipient's Full Name**
- 2. Grant Amount Received**
- 3. Date of Disbursement**
- 4. Program Under Which the Grant Was Awarded**
- 5. Property Address Associated with the Grant**

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That if any information is withheld, the department(s) must provide a detailed explanation citing specific legal exemptions under the Massachusetts Public Records Law (M.G.L. c. 66) that justify the nondisclosure of each withheld item.

Filed on: May 14, 2025