



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR LONG-TERM RESIDENTS AND ESSENTIAL MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES

WHEREAS: Property taxes are a heavy financial burden for many families, especially those who have bought their homes decades ago before housing prices and property values skyrocketed in the city. Post-pandemic inflation has also caused hardship for many of our longtime residents who are facing financial difficulties with paying bills, the cost of living, rent, and property taxes; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston should consider financial assistance programs for those who are struggling to pay their property taxes, including tax relief or exemptions for long-term residents who have owned a home in Boston for at least 20 years and ages 55 years and older, as well as essential municipal employees; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston offers a number of property tax exemptions for residents who qualify, including for our seniors who meet income limits and residency requirements, those who experience hardship, surviving spouses, minors with a deceased parent, veterans, and others; *and*

WHEREAS: The City Council recently passed a Home Rule Petition to increase the amount of tax exemption for Senior homeowners age 65 and older; *and*

WHEREAS: Other cities have enacted policies to assist homeowners who may have difficulties in paying property taxes. For example, the City of Detroit provides an opportunity for homeowners to be exempt from their current year property taxes based on household income; *and*

WHEREAS: Our long term residents and essential municipal employees have been severely impacted by rising property taxes and inflation, and the city should explore policies to assist these homeowners; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss possible tax exemptions for long-term residents who have owned a home in Boston for at least 20 years, ages 55 and older, and essential municipal employees who have difficulties paying property taxes. Representatives from the City of Boston's Assessing Department, Administration and Finance Cabinet, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.