



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO CREATE A RENTERS' BILL OF RIGHTS FOR THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** A large percentage of Boston residents live in rental housing, with 65% of the population being renters, while 35% of the U.S population lives in rental housing, according to the White House Blueprint for a Renter's Bill of Rights; **and**
- WHEREAS,** A report released in March 2022 from the Mayor's Office of Housing found that renters in Boston tend to be younger, with 34% of renters between the ages of 25 - 34 and 31% of renters between the ages of 35 - 54, and nearly half of all renter households are families; **and**
- WHEREAS,** Renters and tenants face threats to security, shelter, stability, health and safety, and barriers in educational attainment and voting when landlords and property managers abuse the rental market; **and**
- WHEREAS,** According to the White House report released in January 2023, there is no comprehensive federal law protecting tenants; instead, it is a patchwork of independent policies and agencies that are insufficiently supporting tenants and their rights; **and**
- WHEREAS,** Current Boston tenant and landlord rights and responsibilities are described in Chapter Nine and Chapter Ten of the Boston City Code and outlined in Massachusetts Fair Housing laws; **and**
- WHEREAS,** Resources for understanding or accessing a renter's rights and responsibilities are limited and inaccessible, leading to exploitation and mistreatment from property owners; **and**
- WHEREAS,** The title '*Bill of Rights*' establishes a universal right to safe and healthy housing, according to a University of Michigan journal article; **and**
- WHEREAS,** A Renter's Bill of Rights is a comprehensive and accessible legal document that outlines the rights of renters, the responsibilities of a landlord, and best practices for protecting renters in the City of Boston; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss implementing a Renter's Bill of Rights for the City of Boston and that the Mayor's Office of Housing and related departments, government entities, and nonprofits, associations, and interested individuals be invited to testify.