

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BRIAN WORRELL, LIZ BREADON, COLETTA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING ON ADDRESSING AND IMPROVING FAIR HOUSING PRACTICES IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, The City of Boston must continue to uphold the principles of fairness, equality, and justice in housing, in alignment with the Title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968, the Fair Housing Act, which prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of residential dwellings, and in other residential real estate related transactions, based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status, or disability; *and*

WHEREAS, Today, federal, state, and municipal laws prohibit discrimination in the sale and rental of housing by property owners and managers, landlords, mortgage lenders, and real estate agents, including the Federal Equal Credit Opportunity Act, Community Reinvestment Act, and Home Mortgage Disclosure Act, MA anti-discrimination law M.G.L. c. 151B, and City of Boston ordinance C.B.C 10-3.1, however inequity and injustice remain pervasive; *and*

WHEREAS, Recent studies and data indicate a need for continued assessment and improvement of housing policies in the City of Boston to address disparities and barriers faced by marginalized communities; *and*

WHEREAS, A strategic approach that links housing supply efforts with affirmatively furthering fair housing and fair housing principles is required, ensuring that new housing developments and policies are assessed through the lens of promoting diversity and preventing discrimination; *and*

WHEREAS, The historical context of racial discrimination in housing in Boston demands a proactive and reparative approach, addressing both the lingering effects of past policies and preventing ongoing discriminatory practices; *and*

WHEREAS, Collaboration with diverse stakeholders including community members, housing advocates, developers, and policy experts is essential to develop holistic and effective fair housing strategies; *and*

WHEREAS, Discrimination in the rental and real estate industry is real and ongoing, and the City of Boston has a duty to engage its residents and businesses to be a part of an equitable and inclusive solution for its dismantling; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address these concerns, evaluate current practices, hear from community members and experts, and formulate comprehensive strategies to strengthen fair housing in the City of Boston.