

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, LIZ BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, CULPEPPER, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WEBER**



## **CITY OF BOSTON**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE**

### **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING APRIL AS FAIR HOUSING MONTH IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

**WHEREAS,** Boston's neighborhoods remain encumbered by historic discriminatory policies and practices in housing and real estate services sanctioned by federal and local governments, leading to entrenched racial segregation, systemic oppression, and significant disparities in housing opportunities and economic stability for communities of color; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Research from the Boston Foundation reveals stark disparities in housing access after decades of systemic redlining, devaluation of non-white homes, and discrimination in lending services, with roughly only 40 percent of Black and 37 percent of Latino households owning their own homes, compared to 73 percent of White households regardless of income levels; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Federal data through the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act reveals that mortgage denial rates were about three times as high for Black Bostonians (15.3%) than white Bostonians (5%) between 2015-2020, and between 2007 and 2022, the share of mortgage applications from Black residents in Boston dropped by half; *and*

**WHEREAS,** According to research from the Greater Boston Association of Realtors, the median sales price for a single-family home in Greater Boston has surpassed \$1 million, while Census data cites more than a quarter of Boston's rental households as spending more than half their income on rent; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In some of Boston's neighborhoods with the highest rates of displacement, residents also experience persistent disparities in income levels, fewer options for career growth and economic mobility, less generational wealth overall and fewer ladders to homeownership to help residents build generational wealth, the impacts of all of which largely burden neighborhoods with a majority of BIPOC and low income residents the most; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Much of Boston's housing stock remains unaccommodating for far too many residents, as many families are in need of units sizable and accommodating enough to fit families and young children, as well as more homeownership opportunities to help alleviate residents from the rent-burdened cycle, and/or housing units with real affordability that actually pertains to their income levels, and the lack of these options only furthers displacement as residents are forced to look for suitable housing elsewhere; *and*

**WHEREAS,** In response to these inequities, Boston's history is marked by strong community activism, which has championed anti-displacement efforts and equitable urban development through grassroots movements that successfully resisted disruptive infrastructure projects, preserved neighborhood integrity, and promoted community-driven solutions; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) provision of the Fair Housing Act of 1968 mandates proactive measures by federal agencies and recipients of housing funds to dismantle historical segregation patterns and ensure equitable housing opportunities for all residents; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The City of Boston established the Office of Fair Housing and Equity to enforce fair housing laws, protecting residents from discrimination, and advance policies in the city that ensure equitable access to housing and housing choice for all residents; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The late Robert Terrell, former Director of the Office of Fair Housing, significantly shaped Boston's fair housing legacy through visionary leadership and advocacy, notably spearheading pioneering zoning reforms that advanced equity and set a national precedent, and the AFFH Community Advisory Committee (CAC) remains a strong coalition insistent on the importance of moving forward with an assessment of the city's implementation of fair housing goals based on updated data and community input; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Numerous local organizations, including Action for Equity, the Boston Tenant Coalition, Reclaim Roxbury, Dudley Street Neighborhood Initiative (DSNI), Dorchester Not For Sale, Housing Forward, Chinese Progressive Association, Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), HUD Tenant Alliance, and many others continue to advocate tirelessly for fair and equitable housing practices across Boston; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council officially recognizes April as Fair Housing Month in the City of Boston, honors the enduring legacy of Robert Terrell, acknowledges the invaluable contributions of local fair housing organizations and advocates, and reaffirms its unwavering commitment to advancing robust policies and actions that promote equity, inclusion, and fair housing opportunities for all Boston residents.

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