OFFERED BY COUNCILORS MINIARD CULPEPPER, BRIAN WORRELL, BREADON, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND WEBER

CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING HOUSING VOUCHER DISCRIMINATION AND FAIR HOUSING CIVIL RIGHTS ENFORCEMENT IN BOSTON

WHEREAS, Fair, equal, and nondiscriminatory access to housing is a fundamental civil rights issue, and housing discrimination on the basis of race, source of income, or voucher status undermines equal opportunity, reinforces residential segregation, and limits access to safe, stable, and affordable housing; *and*

WHEREAS, The Suffolk University Law School Housing Discrimination Testing Program, the Boston Foundation, and Analysis Group report, *Qualified Renters Need Not Apply: Race and Voucher Discrimination in the Metro Boston Rental Housing Market*, found substantial evidence of discrimination against Black renters and renters using housing vouchers in the Greater Boston rental market; *and*

WHEREAS, The report found evidence of voucher-based discrimination in 86% of tests and race-based discrimination in 71% of tests, including differential treatment in responses from housing providers, access to apartment viewings, the number of units shown, incentives offered, applications provided, and follow-up communications; *and*

WHEREAS, Such discrimination not only violates fair housing principles and civil rights protections, but also perpetuates racial and economic segregation, denies families access to neighborhoods with greater educational, health, transportation, and economic opportunities, and disproportionately harms Black residents, low-income residents, and voucher holders; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has a responsibility to examine the extent of housing discrimination within the city, strengthen fair housing education and enforcement, improve coordination with state and local civil rights agencies, and ensure that residents using lawful rental assistance are not unlawfully excluded from housing opportunities*;* ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing regarding housing voucher discrimination and fair housing civil rights enforcement in Boston, and to examine the City's role in preventing, identifying,

and responding to discrimination based on race, source of income, and voucher status, and that representatives from the Mayor's Office of Housing, the Office of Equity and Inclusion, the Boston Fair Housing Commission, the Boston Housing Authority, the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination, Suffolk University Law School Housing Discrimination Testing Program, the Boston Foundation, fair housing advocates, tenant advocates, housing providers, and other interested parties be invited to attend.

Filed on: July 8, 2026