

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS LYDIA EDWARDS AND RICARDO ARROYO, Bok,**  
Baker, Breadon, Campbell, Essaibi-George, Flaherty, Flynn, Mejia, O'Malley and Wu



## **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

### **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF S.874 AND H.1436, AN ACT PROMOTING HOUSING STABILITY AND HOMELESSNESS PREVENTION IN MASSACHUSETTS**

- WHEREAS,** Since the state eviction moratorium expired in October 2020, over 23,000 households in Massachusetts have been served with eviction papers, and many tenants are unaware of their rights and legal protections both in and out of the courtroom; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the Massachusetts Trial Court, while 85% of landlords have legal representation, only 8% of tenants who are facing eviction are represented; and
- WHEREAS,** Access to critical legal resources, guidance and support from an attorney prior to a court eviction can protect families from being displaced by an illegal or unnecessary eviction, prevent homelessness, and create a path to housing stability; and
- WHEREAS,** The Massachusetts Right to Counsel Coalition is a broad coalition of municipal leaders, housing advocates, health care providers, teachers, property owners, and community groups that support legislation to provide a right to counsel in Massachusetts for those with low income who are facing eviction, and ensure access to resources and assistance that will prevent eviction and stabilize their housing; and
- WHEREAS,** Two Right to Counsel bills have been filed for the 2020-21 Session and assigned to the Joint Committee on Housing: S.874 'An Act promoting housing stability and homelessness prevention in Massachusetts' filed by Senator Sal N. DiDomenico; and H.1436 'An Act promoting housing stability and homelessness prevention in Massachusetts' filed by Representative David M. Rogers and Representative Michael S. Day, both of which provide full legal representation to tenants and owner-occupants with incomes at or below 80% of Area Median Income; and ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** The Boston City Council hereby expresses its support for the Right to Counsel in Massachusetts and urges the State Legislature to pass the aforementioned bills in such a form as to support the goal of ensuring representation for individuals facing litigation in housing court.

Filed on: October 20, 2021