

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ED FLYNN, Breadon, Edwards, Bok, Wu,  
O'Malley, Arroyo, Essaibi-George, Mejia, Campbell, **CITY OF BOSTON** Flaherty and Janey  
**IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PROPERTY TAXES AND  
ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS FOR SENIORS & LONG-TERM  
RESIDENTS FACING DIFFICULTIES DURING COVID-19**

- WHEREAS:** The COVID-19 pandemic has severely impacted our economy, and many residents are facing financial difficulties with paying bills, rent, and property taxes; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Property taxes can be a heavy financial burden for families, particularly our seniors on fixed incomes, who may have brought their homes years ago before housing prices and property values skyrocketed; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Many of our residents and senior residents have reported concerns about the increase in property taxes, especially during this difficult time when many are financially strapped; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City of Boston offers a number of property tax exemptions for residents who qualify, including for seniors who meet income limits and residency requirements, those who experience hardship, surviving spouses, minors with a deceased parent, veterans, and others; *and*
- WHEREAS:** The City Council also passed an ordinance allowing low income senior homeowners who owe back taxes to establish property tax agreements and get interest relief from the city; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Other cities have enacted policies to assist homeowners who may have difficulties in paying property taxes during the pandemic, such as New York City reducing interest for late property tax payments for eligible homeowners, and the City of Detroit offers an exemption of up to 100% for residents who live in poverty; *and*
- WHEREAS:** Seniors have been severely impacted by the pandemic, and during this difficult time, the city should do what it can to assist senior homeowners who are feeling additional financial strains due to COVID-19, including potentially doubling the exemption for seniors over a certain age while considering their income and evaluation; *and*

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:**

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss possible assistance programs for senior homeowners who have difficulties paying property taxes. Representatives from the City of Boston's Assessing Department, Administration and Finance Cabinet, as well as other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.

**Filed on:** January 13, 2021