

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ENRIQUE J. PEPÉN, JULIA MEJIA, BRIAN WORRELL,
COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN,
MURPHY, SANTANA, WEBER AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO ADDRESS THE DISPLACEMENT OF BOSTONIANS AS A RESULT OF NEW AND FUTURE DEVELOPMENT

- WHEREAS,** Cities in the United States have a history of their communities being displaced by rising prices and gentrification, which alters the social and cultural identities of neighborhoods residents hold dear and causes great insecurity for the victims of displacement; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Displacement from rising prices and gentrification has predominantly impacted working class neighborhoods, cultural neighborhoods, and neighborhoods with vulnerable populations, forcing the residents of these neighborhoods away from their homes, places of employment, and social gathering spaces; *and*
- WHEREAS,** More abundant professional opportunities in Boston have increased the demand for housing in the Greater Boston area, enlarging the gap between housing demand and housing supply; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Rising housing costs and income inequality threaten to make Boston a city where only the rich and poor can live, excluding the middle class from living in Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Rising rents, rising income inequality, and the loss of affordable retail space to new, more expensive spaces threaten to gentrify existing commercial sectors, ultimately making Boston a city where only the established wealthy can do business; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The loss of retail space to new housing developments diminishes economic opportunities for entrepreneurs to invest in Boston, closes down existing businesses, and reduces accessibility to retail destinations for neighborhood residents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Cities like East Palo Alto, CA have worked to avoid gentrification by instituting inclusionary zoning, rent control, and condominium conversion limitations, while Portland, OR has instituted a “Right to Return” policy to encourage displaced populations to return to the communities they were priced out of; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston is a city that values the cultural and economic diversity - all Bostonians deserve a place to live, work, and play in the city; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to address the risk of displacement to Boston communities. Experts on displacement, housing, gentrification, administration officials, and community members will be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 29, 2025