

Offered by Councilor Elizabeth Breadon



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND AVAILABILITY FOR FAMILIES

- WHEREAS*, The high cost of housing is one of the leading factors resulting in families leaving U.S. cities. The City of Boston is facing a housing affordability crisis. Rising housing costs create a challenge for middle income families leaving families with limited housing options and leading to displacement. The City of Boston is experiencing a shortage of affordable urban homes as developers have focused on luxury condominiums and apartments; and,
- WHEREAS*, According to a report by Boston Indicators, the research center at The Boston Foundation titled *Kids Today, Boston's Declining Child Population and Its Effect on School Enrollment*, Boston is becoming a city of "high-income childless professionals;" and,
- WHEREAS*, The report acknowledged the growth of lower-income families that secured subsidized housing, but recognized that Boston is losing other families who cannot afford the city's housing costs. The report references data which indicates that Boston's overall population has grown while the school-age population is declining due in part to a drop in the number of middle-income families as well as a lack of affordable market-rate housing; and,
- WHEREAS*, A Metropolitan Area Planning Council study concluded that a majority of family-sized units in Greater Boston are not occupied by families with children; and,
- WHEREAS*, The City of Boston should examine ways to build more housing in the city that is suitable and affordable for families. The City of Boston should look at creating partnerships that provide and preserve affordable homeownership and multifamily housing including state funding and collaboration with non-profit organizations.

#### *NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,*

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine housing affordability and availability for families. Representatives from the Department of Neighborhood Development, representatives from the Boston Planning and Development Agency, representatives from affordable housing and planning organizations, residents of the city, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in Council: February 12, 2020