

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR ERIN MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS OFFERING PROPERTY TAX ABATEMENTS TO BUSINESS OWNERS IN THE NEWMARKET AREA

WHEREAS, Business owners in Newmarket are struggling, through none of their own doing, and we've failed them in not providing a safe environment. Many have been adversely impacted by the deteriorating conditions of the neighborhood that aren't accurately reflected in property tax valuation, including declining public safety, cleanliness and quality of life over a number of years; **and**

WHEREAS, In an effort to address deteriorating conditions, 65 of the 200+ member Newmarket Business Association spent \$3.9 million in security costs and incurred \$1.9 million in damages in 2021 alone. That cost has gone up tremendously in the past two years and most recently the business owners invested \$500,000 into security measures, including CCTV cameras to try and curb crime; **and**

WHEREAS, This Newmarket Business Improvement District (BID), that allows area businesses to finance supplemental services and enhancements above and beyond the basic services provided by the City through annual fees collected from BID property owners, has been successful in many ways and offers cleanup services along Atkinson Street several times a week; **and,**

WHEREAS, In recognition of the City's inability, despite increased investments and coordinated efforts across departments, to adequately address conditions in the area, the City could offer a property tax abatement to those businesses most adversely affected to compensate for increased fees, costs of doing business and negatively impacted quality of life; **AND NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss offering property tax abatements to business owners in the Newmarket Area. Representatives from the City of Boston's Administration and Finance Cabinet, the Mayor's Office of Economic Opportunity and Inclusion, the Newmarket BID and members of the public and other interested parties shall be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: August 9, 2023