



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE HOW CHANGES TO AUSTIN PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT, ZONING, AND LAND USE POLICIES HAVE INCREASED HOUSING PRODUCTION AND AFFORDABILITY, AND THE POTENTIAL TO APPLY SIMILAR POLICIES IN BOSTON

**WHEREAS,** Planning, development, zoning, and land use policies have substantial impacts on the quantity and types of housing developed in cities; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** Boston faces an ongoing housing affordability crisis, with rapidly increasing housing costs, including average monthly rents surpassing \$3,000 and average single-family home prices passing \$765,000 in 2023 according to data published by the Boston Planning Department, and prices continue to increase; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** Austin has faced similar challenges with housing affordability, and in response, the Austin City Council has implemented a variety of reforms in the City of Austin's planning, development, zoning, and land use policies that have supported a substantial increase in housing production; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** As Austin housing production has increased, Austin has experienced stabilizing housing prices, and seen increased affordability, including decreasing rent prices despite continued and expanding demand driven by a growing population, a strong local job market, and a large higher-education student population; *and,*

**WHEREAS,** Given the similarities in the affordability challenges that Austin and Boston are facing, the City of Boston should examine the planning, development, zoning, and land use policies that Austin has adopted to successfully increase housing production and affordability, in order to understand them in more depth, and consider how they could apply in Boston. ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to explore how changes to Austin Planning, Development, Zoning, and Land Use Policies have increased housing production and affordability, and the potential to apply similar policies in Boston. Austin City Council members who have worked in depth on planning, development, zoning, and land use policies including Mayor Pro Tem Leslie Pool, Council Member José "Chito" Vela, and Council Member Zohaib "Zo" Qadri will be invited, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.