

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, JULIA MEJIA,
BREADON, FITZGERALD, AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING FOR THE BOSTON CITY COUNCIL TO
ADDRESS NEXT STEPS AFTER THE FAILED PROPERTY TAX
RECLASSIFICATION HOME RULE PETITION THROUGH AUDIT

WHEREAS, The City Council passed a Home Rule Petition allowing the property tax burden borne by businesses to be raised from 175% to 200% in the next fiscal year, then decreasing over five years with an eventual return to the original 175%.

WHEREAS, That Home Rule Petition has since failed at the State House, leaving uncertainty as to what, if any, measures will be implemented in its place, especially given the Administration's stance that there was no "backup plan" to its attempt to change the property tax reclassification.

WHEREAS, The Home Rule Petition did not provide a solution for the post-five-year period where property owners and renters will still experience high property taxes relative to today. This proposition would have only smoothed the rise over five years, leaving many residents we are trying to protect still vulnerable.

WHEREAS, Both business and residents must be served and protected. Businesses form an important part of the fabric of our city; and raising their tax burden would have a profound and negative impact on an already struggling business community. Residents already face an extremely high cost of living in Boston, and we need answers for them.

WHEREAS, There has been much discussion on what information and data was available at the time of formulation of the Home Rule Petition, what models were used, how that information and data was found and decided upon, how that information and data is stored, how often that information and data is updated, how that information and data is applied in the Administration's analysis, how that information and data will be utilized going forward, and how options developed or changed when the Home Rule Petition was debated at the State House.

WHEREAS, There must be communication with the City Council as to what the next steps the Administration is looking at are and how they are planning to respond to protect residents and businesses. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council audit the steps that led to the Home Rule Petition and the steps that now come after it, and that representatives from the Auditing Office, the Commissioner of Assessing, the Chief Financial Officer, and other interested parties be invited to attend and give testimony.

Filed in Council: August 7, 2024