

Offered by City Councilor Lydia Edwards



## CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

### ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING ADOPTION OF FLEXIBLE PAYMENT PLANS FOR PROPERTY TAX ARREARS

*WHEREAS:* The City of Boston has a significant number of low income, elderly and disabled homeowners that have property tax arrears owed to the City; and

*WHEREAS:* It is in the interest of the City to promote housing stability and to address outstanding tax issues in a manner favorable to both community residents and the municipality; and

*WHEREAS:* The City works with homeowners in tax arrears but currently is only able to offer one year payment plans that require a twenty-five percent down payment to address these arrears; and

*WHEREAS:* The interest rate of tax arrears can be as high as sixteen percent; and

*WHEREAS:* The City can adopt more flexible payment plans and the ability to forgive up to 50% of accrued interest pursuant to G.L. Ch. 60 §62A; and

*WHEREAS:* Many other municipalities have adopted these provisions and found them useful in working with homeowners to resolve outstanding property tax arrears;

*THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,*

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss opportunities available to the City of Boston and its residents under the provisions of G.L. Ch. 60 §62A and to determine whether adopting flexible payment plans can assist homeowners to reduce tax arrears owed the City, and that the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Law Department, the Assessing Department and any other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed in City Council: April 25, 2018