

Offered by Councilor Andrea J. Campbell and Councilor Matt O'Malley



**City Of Boston
CITY COUNCIL**

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN

***ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS
STRATEGIES TO REDUCE AND ACTIVATE
VACANT RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES IN THE
CITY OF BOSTON***

WHEREAS, In the City of Boston, there are roughly 1,251 City-owned vacant lots; *and*

WHEREAS, There is limited data and no central database to indicate how many vacant properties in the City are privately-owned thus underestimating the scope of the problem; *and*

WHEREAS, The lack of data on these privately-owned, blighted properties creates a barrier for developing and implementing solutions for utilizing these spaces; *and*

WHEREAS, The vast majority of these vacant, often blighted, properties are in Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has a Problem Properties Task Force which was created to address "bad" properties that cause blight and are often centers of crime, violence and drug use in our neighborhoods; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston had a Clean it or Lien it program to restore pride in the neighborhoods and increase the quality of life by addressing vacant private properties and has thus been dissolved; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston needs more affordable housing and these lots could be used for this purpose; *and*

WHEREAS, Cities including Hartford, Pittsburg, and Washington D.C, have explored financial disincentives including imposing a tax, or in Philadelphia encouraging development with tax abatements to grapple with vacant properties; *and*

WHEREAS, Cities including New York and Washington D.C, have created land banks to transform numerous vacant, blighted parcels into vibrant, lively parcels useful to community; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED, That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing

to explore strategies to reduce and activate vacant residential properties. Those invited to provide testimony will include the Department of Neighborhood Development, the Office of Housing Stability, the Boston Planning and Development agency, along with other interested parties.

Filed in the City Council: February 6, 2019