

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, MICHAEL FLAHERTY, ED FLYNN,
BAKER, BREADON, FERNANDES ANDERSON AND LARA



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PUBLIC SAFETY AND QUALITY OF LIFE ISSUES FOR OUR RESIDENTS IN PUBLIC HOUSING

- WHEREAS,** The Boston Housing Authority (“BHA”) is the agency statutorily responsible under Massachusetts law “for providing for families unable to afford housing without public subsidies” and “to carry out these responsibilities, BHA develops and manages housing projects and leases housing when necessary.” BHA provides public housing and other affordable housing options to thousands of our most vulnerable residents in the City of Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The BHA’s Administration and Operations Departments are “responsible for day to day management and maintenance of all the BHA housing developments,” including Living Unit Inspections (LUI), annual HUD inspections, resident relations, and lease information. Having a clear understanding of the frequency and impact of these inspections to housing developments, and individual units, will be helpful to advocate on behalf of the residents; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** The BHA’s Department of Police and Public Safety is responsible to “preserve public peace and order, and to protect life and property” in BHA properties. The overall quality of life of our public housing residents, advocating for their safety, and helping lift up their voices is of the utmost importance to us; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** It is imperative that there are reviews on the BHA’s procedures and protocols to maintaining accurate lists of tenants and the dependent children in their care, that there are inspection, enforcement policies, and mechanisms relative to ensuring that all leaseholders are in compliance with BHA lease policies and guidelines, and that all children in BHA housing are officially and accounted for and safe. **AND NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED,** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to assess the Department’s response procedures and protocols relating to public safety in BHA units, particularly the safety of children in BHA housing. Representatives from the Mayor’s office, Boston Housing Authority Administrator Kenzie Bok, Chief of Emergency Management and Chief of Police for the Boston Housing Authority Shumeane L. Benford, and other interested parties shall be invited to attend. In addition, members of the public are encouraged to attend.

Filed in City Council: June 28, 2023