



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
MARTIN J. WALSH

July 12, 2017

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to extend the property tax exemption for members of the Massachusetts National Guard and reservists who are serving in foreign countries for a period of two (2) years beginning in Fiscal Year 2018. By law, the National Guard and reservists exemption must be extended by a vote of the City Council every two (2) years. The City initially adopted the exemption in Fiscal Year 2012 and renewed the program in fiscal years 2014 and 2016. Prior to initial adoption, property tax relief programs were available to active military members and veterans, but these benefits did not extend to members of the National Guard and reservists.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this order as soon as possible so that the City of Boston may continue to offer this important tax exemption program to members of the National Guard and reservists.

Sincerely,

Martin J. Walsh
Mayor of Boston

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER RELATIVE TO THE EXTENSION OF A NATIONAL GUARD PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION IN THE CITY OF BOSTON IN FISCAL YEAR 2018.

Whereas, In Fiscal Year 2012, the City of Boston first adopted Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 59, section 5(56), a local option program that offered members of the National Guard and reservists who are on active duty serving in foreign countries a tax exemption up to 100% on real and personal property; and

Whereas, previously, the City had property tax relief programs for active military members and veterans, but these programs did not extend to members of the National Guard and reservists; and

Whereas, by law, the program expires two (2) years after adoption unless extended by City Council vote; and

Whereas, the exemption cannot be continued in Fiscal Year 2018 if the City Council does not vote to extend the program; and

Whereas, the National Guard has a rich history in Boston, with the first unit of the then named "Massachusetts Bay Colonial Militia" organized in 1630; be it therefore

ORDERED: That pursuant to the General Laws, Chapter 59, section 5(56), the City of Boston shall extend the property tax exemption of up to 100% for active members of the National Guard or reservists serving in foreign countries for an additional period of two (2) years beginning in Fiscal Year 2018.

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.

BY Eugene L. O'Flaherty
EUGENE L. O'FLAHERTY
CORPORATION COUNSEL 