

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, BREADON,
COLETTA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN,
SANTANA, WEBER, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS PRIORITIZING EQUITABLE DEVELOPMENT BY EXPLORING FINANCIAL SOLUTIONS TO CLEAN PARCELS PRIOR TO ACQUISITION IN BOSTON

WHEREAS, The City of Boston recognizes the imperative to revitalize and develop vacant parcels within marginalized communities in Roxbury; *and*

WHEREAS, Data and statistics reveal a stark pattern of historical disparities in investment, perpetuating systemic inequities in Roxbury, MA; *and*

WHEREAS, The persistent blight on vacant parcels in Roxbury is not merely a localized issue but one deeply entrenched, exacerbating environmental concerns and impeding land surveying efforts prior to development; *and*

WHEREAS, The disproportionate impact of financial barriers on marginalized communities in Roxbury underscores the urgency to break the cycle of disinvestment and create avenues for equitable development; *and*

WHEREAS, Recognizing the critical link between addressing the financial constraints faced by Roxbury parcel owners and fostering community-driven development is paramount for rectifying historical inequities; *and*

WHEREAS, The absence of a mechanism to address these financial barriers results in blighted parcels, perpetuating a cycle of disinvestment and hindering community development; *and*

WHEREAS, There is a pressing need for a comprehensive program allocating funds to address environmental issues, remediate, and survey vacant parcels in Roxbury before their transfer to abutters or developers and to establish a program that allocates city funds to clean and ready parcels for transfer, sale, or rental to abutters or developers, with a specific focus on marginalized communities historically disinvested or disenfranchised; *and*

WHEREAS, Such a program will contribute to the revitalization of blighted areas, stimulate economic growth, and foster equitable development within marginalized communities: ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: The City Council shall convene a hearing to address the historic inequities and financial barriers faced by parcel owners in Roxbury, specifically focusing on the impact of blighted parcels on the community. Such hearings should examine statistics related to disinvestment, vacant parcels, and environmental concerns in Roxbury and explore the potential benefits of a city-funded program designed to clean, remediate, and survey vacant parcels in Roxbury before their transfer, sale, or rental to abutters or developers. Representatives from the Administration and Roxbury community, as well as environmental justice advocates, and experts in urban development shall be invited to attend and participate.

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