

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, ED FLYNN, RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE, BREADON, COLETTA ZAPATA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, PEPÉN, SANTANA AND WEBER



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

AN ORDER TO INCREASE THE VETERANS PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION

WHEREAS, According to 2022 U.S. Census estimates, Boston is home to more than 13,000 veterans, with the largest age group being the more than 3,600 veterans who are 75 and older; *and*

WHEREAS, Eligibility for the veterans exemption, which for most categories is set at the maximum \$400 for FY25, is only granted to Purple Heart recipients, Gold Star parents, veterans with a service-related disability of at least 10 percent, or surviving spouses, and veterans with other specific injuries; *and*

WHEREAS, The HERO Act, which was passed by the State Legislature and signed by Gov. Maura Healey in August, allows for the city to increase its property tax exemption for eligible veterans; *and*

WHEREAS, With more than \$500 million in certified “free cash,” Boston is in an advantageous financial position to offer the maximum amount of relief, which for most categories would be \$840 starting in FY26, to veterans who served their country; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston should provide the maximum amount of property tax relief for eligible veterans by locally adopting state law M.G.L. c. 59, Section 5, 22I and 22J;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

ORDERED: That the City of Boston accept General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22I (which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under G.L. c.59, s.5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by the percentage increase in the U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics, Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the previous year as determined by the Commissioner of Revenue) and General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22J, (which authorizes an annual increase in the amount of the exemption granted under General Laws Chapter 59, Section 5, Clause 22, Clause 22A, Clause 22B, Clause 22C, Clause 22E and Clause 22F by 100% of the personal exemption amount, subject to the conditions in Clause 22J) to be effective for applicable exemptions granted for any fiscal year beginning on or after July 1, 2025.

Implementation and Effective Date: Pursuant to the accepted provisions, this order shall be effective at the start of FY26.

Filed on: August 23, 2024