

**OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ERIN MURPHY, JOHN FITZGERALD, HENRY SANTANA,  
COLETTA ZAPATA, FLYNN, MEJIA, WEBER, WORRELL AND LOUIJEUNE**



## **CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL**

**Order for a hearing to discuss residential property values and  
the assessing process**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Boston faces deep questions surrounding affordability, revenue, spending, investment, and the future of the work environment and its impact on residential and commercial property values and taxation.

**WHEREAS**, Many questions exist surrounding the assessing process and its impact on residential tax bills: why can property values vary between nearby parcels, why can property values vary considerably over a short timeframe, what exact considerations and factors are relied upon in establishing a property's value, what methods are used to determine a property's value, and do multiple options exist in that regard, and more.

**WHEREAS**, Resources do exist for relief in the form of exemptions, abatement, and, potentially rebates, but the qualifications for those programs, the process to apply for them, the amount of relief available, and the timeframe involved should be communicated to residents to achieve full communication and transparency and to ensure residents have every available tool at their disposal.

**WHEREAS**, The assessing process should be fully explored with potential options for creative and comprehensive solutions considered alongside. Such discussion should undertake a general and specific analysis which includes a full articulation of the factors, considerations, and information are part of the assessing process and comprise a property's value, what valuation methods exist and are there benefits or drawbacks to each, what exact dollar values are associated with home improvements, what role do nearby and other property sales have in the assessing process, and answers to the questions identified in the paragraphs above.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the above with representatives from the relevant City Department/s and/or divisions. Community advocates and the public will also be invited to attend and testify.

Filed on the 15th day of January, 2025