



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

www.cityofboston.gov/citycouncil
city.council@cityofboston.gov

One City Hall Square ♦ 5th Floor ♦ Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ Fax: (617) 635-4203

April 6, 2018

Martin J. Walsh
One City Hall Square, Suite 500
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mayor Walsh,

As you consider Boston's FY19 Budget, we once again urge you to include \$5 million to pilot a city-funded housing voucher program for Housing First. In 2016 the City Council held a hearing to examine the feasibility of such a program in Boston, and the urgency of this need was overwhelmingly clear. While this program has not yet been included in the city's budget, the need for it and our advocacy on its behalf has not changed.

We know that housing is a top priority for your administration, and we applaud the amount of new affordable housing units that Boston has created under your leadership. However, for many families and individuals in Boston the pressing need for affordable housing cannot wait. As the federal government increasingly retreats from its responsibilities, municipal leaders must step up to meet the needs of their residents.

An initial investment of \$5 million would allow the City of Boston to provide housing vouchers and immediate assistance to more than 350 families and individuals. We realize that this will not solve our city's housing crisis, but with 38,000 people on the Boston Housing Authority's waitlist and 3,000-5,000 homeless students enrolled in Boston Public Schools at any given time, the City should step up in all ways possible to immediately address this critical need. We are willing to work with you and your administration during this budget cycle to identify creative, sustainable funding sources to launch this program and to provide immediate assistance to hundreds of families in the City of Boston who are struggling to find a home.

We ask for your support on this initiative and thank you for your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to pass this year's budget and to move with urgency to establish a housing voucher program in the City of Boston.

Sincerely,

Frank Baker, District 3

Kim Janey, District 7

Andrea J Campbell

Andrea Campbell, District 4

Matt O'Malley

Matt O'Malley, District 6

Annissa Essaibi-George

Annissa Essaibi-George, At-Large

Ayanna Pressley

Ayanna Pressley, At-Large

Michael P. Flaherty

Michael Flaherty, At-Large

Michelle Wu

Michelle Wu, At-Large

Edmund Flynn

Ed Flynn, District 2

Josh Zakim

Josh Zakim, District 8