

Offered by City Councilor Lydia Edwards



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE CREATION OF TEMPORARY RENTAL ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT RESIDENTS IMPACTED BY COVID-19

WHEREAS: The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated housing insecurity for many Bostonians; and

WHEREAS: The City could provide immediate relief through *short-term*, emergency rental assistance, targeting residents who have lost income due to COVID-19; and

WHEREAS: In February, the Walsh administration recommended 40 projects, totaling over twenty-four million dollars, for Community Preservation Act funding; and

WHEREAS: Eight million are dedicated to citywide housing programs, with four million proposed for the Acquisition Opportunities Program and \$4 million proposed for the One+Boston Program; and

WHEREAS: Communities including Georgetown, Gloucester, Somerville, Waltham, and Martha's Vineyard have used CPA for rental assistance; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Housing Partnership has recently issued recommendations for utilizing Community Preservation Act funds for rental assistance; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston has already indicated its intent to move forward with long-term city rental subsidy programs; *THEREFORE*

BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss an emergency rental assistance program and to discuss other rental subsidy programs as appropriate.

Filed in City Council: Wednesday, April 1, 2020