

**OFFERED BY COUNCILOR TANIA FERNANDES ANDERSON, ANURPHY,
LOUIJEUNE, ARROYO, BOK, BREADON, FLAHERTY AND FLYNN**



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDINANCE TO INCREASE THE ALLOCATED BUDGET FOR CITY COUNCIL STAFF

WHEREAS, The City of Boston recently became the second most expensive city in the United States to live in, with 98 percent of all apartments in the city at \$2000 or above in rent; *and*

WHEREAS, The Federal Reserve states that in order to have financial security, households should not spend more than 28 percent of their income on housing; *and*

WHEREAS, In Boston, residents would need to earn around \$80,000 in order to spend at most 28 percent of their income on housing; *and*

WHEREAS, A Harvard University study has found that a salary of \$181,000 is needed to own a home in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, The U.S Bureau of Labor Statistics has recorded that Boston's Consumer Price Index has risen by 7 percent from 2021 to 2022, with energy prices increasing by 29.5 percent and food prices increasing by 10.8 percent; *and*

WHEREAS, In accordance to Chapter V, Section 5-5.3 of the Boston Municipal Code, every employee of the City of Boston, must be a resident of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston City Councilors represent 77,500 residents of Boston and require a complete and competent staff to do so; *and*

WHEREAS, Each City Council Office require multiple roles such as a Chief of Staff, Constituent Services, Research & Policy Director, Office Manager, Communications Director, and Scheduler in order to ensure the City Councilors can best provide for their constituents; *and*

WHEREAS, With the current Office Staff budget of \$315,000, a Councilor can hire four staff members at a wage considered livable while renting in the City of Boston; *and*

WHEREAS, Chapter II, Section 2-8.3 lists the positions and salaries of Boston City Council central staff with multiple roles pertinent within each City Councilor's Office; *and*

WHEREAS, If each Councilor's Office were to employ a Chief of Staff (Central Staff

Director), Research & Policy Director, Communications Manager, and an Office Manager, at the salaries listed under Chapter II, Section 2-8.3, it would cost lowest, \$327,000, and highest \$431,000 which does not include a Scheduler, or Constituent Services Director; *and*

WHEREAS, Each Massachusetts State Representative represents around 44,000 citizens; *and*

WHEREAS, In the Massachusetts State House of Representatives, the average salary for a Chief of Staff is \$149,000, the average salary of a Policy Director is \$111,000, the average salary for a Communications Director is \$113,000, and the average salary for a Constituent Services Representative is \$59,000; *and*

WHEREAS, The Massachusetts House of Representatives recently raised the minimum wage of legislative staffers to \$50,000; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston should support all of its employees to ensure that employees can afford to live comfortably within the city, and act as an example for other employers to follow; *and*

WHEREAS, The City Council should raise the budget for City Councilors to pay their staff livable and competitive wages and ensure all services are provided; ***NOW, THEREFORE***

Be it ordained by the City of Boston, as follows:

That the City of Boston Municipal Code, Ordinances be amended in ***Chapter II*** by striking the paragraph of ***Section 2-8.3*** starting with “For the conduct of the affairs of the City Council,” and replacing it with; “For the conduct of the affairs of the City Council, in addition to the Central Staff Director and subordinate officers provided for, there shall be administrative assistants and secretaries to be appointed from time to time by the City Council. Each Councilor's office shall receive three hundred ninety thousand (\$390,000.00) dollars per year and the President's office shall receive four hundred sixty thousand (\$460,000.00) dollars per year to pay such salaries according to the rules of the City Council.

Filed on: February 8, 2023