



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS ANNISSA ESSAIBI-GEORGE
& MATT O'MALLEY

Flaherty, Baker, Ciommo, Edwards, Flynn, Mccarthy, Wu, Zakim and Campbell

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING IMPROVING ACCESS TO WORKSPACE FOR ARTISTS IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2018 OCT 17 P 3:27
BOSTON, MA

WHEREAS: In early 2018, artists were displaced from affordable workspace on Brookside Avenue in Jamaica Plain after 30 years as an intrinsic and productive part of the neighborhood and Boston arts community; and

WHEREAS: According to the Boston Planning and Development Agency's 2017 'Boston's Creative Economy: An Update' report Boston's Creative Economy totals 36,254 workers; and

WHEREAS: It is estimated that creative economy occupations will expand by 7.2% over the next decade, adding roughly 1,800 jobs; and

WHEREAS: According to the 2016 Boston Creates Executive Summary, the need for affordable spaces for people to work, gather, create, collaborate, and participate in arts and culture is complex and widespread; and

WHEREAS: Artists require more affordable work space options in the city; and

WHEREAS: The City provides a structure for artist live/work space to serve as a recognized community benefit for new development projects, but does not have a similar structure in place for artist work space that can be rented at an affordable rate; and

WHEREAS: We envision a Creative Boston that demonstrates, in concrete ways, how it values artists by enabling them to create and showcase their work, grow and develop throughout their careers, and receive the support they need to flourish in Boston; and

WHEREAS: As a city that is committed to being a cultural hub, we need to take a stand against the displacement of artists and improve their access to affordable workspaces;
THEREFORE, BE IT

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to determine strategies for creating more affordable work space for artists. Interested parties should be invited to participate such as the Office of Arts and Culture, Boston Arts Commission, Boston Planning and Development Agency, artists who have experienced displacement or are interested in work space, and nonprofit arts and culture partners.

FILED October 24, 2018