

Offered by Councilor Ricardo Arroyo



**CITY OF BOSTON  
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**A RESOLUTION REQUESTING A MORATORIUM ON RENT,  
MORTGAGES, EVICTIONS, AND FORECLOSURES IN THE CITY  
OF BOSTON TO PROVIDE HOUSING SECURITY IN LIGHT OF  
THE COVID-19 OUTBREAK**

WHEREAS: The outbreak of COVID-19 in the City of Boston has resulted in the reduction in wages and income of residents; *and*

WHEREAS: The containment protocol of COVID-19 in Boston has resulted in the suspension of school operations, requiring parents to stay at home or spend money on childcare facilities and services; *and*

WHEREAS: Residents of Boston that are most at risk for delinquent mortgage or rent payments are marginalized populations such as low-income families, undocumented immigrants; *and*

WHEREAS: The Boston Housing Authority has suspended all non-essential evictions for the duration of Governor Baker's State of Emergency as long as there are no criminal allegations or public health risks; *and*

WHEREAS: Mayor Walsh has entered into a partnership with real estate organizations in Boston and encouraged them to implement a moratorium on eviction for up to 90 days with reviews every 30 days; *and*

WHEREAS: Current policies on the suspension of evictions and foreclosures are voluntary and limited to a few real estate companies in the City of Boston, and do not include small landlords; *and*

WHEREAS: The suspension of mortgage payments in Italy as part of its COVID-19 economic relief package and in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico serve as important precedents and examples of possible implementation in Boston; *and*

WHEREAS: The State of New York has already declared a state-wide moratorium on evictions and New York State Courts have indefinitely suspended all eviction proceedings and pending eviction orders, and can serve as a precedent in the current situation; *and*

WHEREAS: A suspension on rent and mortgage payments and evictions and foreclosures would reassure residents of Boston and provide housing security in a time where social distancing, quarantine, and isolation are key procedures in reducing the spread of COVID-19; **NOW THEREFORE**

**BE IT RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council requests that the Federal Government, and/or the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and/or the City of Boston use the powers vested within them to issue an immediate moratorium on rent, mortgage payments, evictions and foreclosures for an indefinite period of time until the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Filed on: March 18, 2020.