

Offered by **COUNCILOR ROB CONSALVO**



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION URGING THE MA CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO OPPOSE FEDERAL FUNDING CUTS TO HUD AND TO OTHER HOUSING FUNDING THAT WOULD SEVERELY IMPACT THE CITY OF BOSTON

- WHEREAS,* More than 40,000 low income elderly, family and disabled households in Boston with an estimated 90,000 residents rely on Section 8 or Public Housing assistance from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to maintain their homes; and
- WHEREAS,* More than 4,000 more households are homeless or dependent on emergency or transitional shelters, and waiting lists for existing programs and low income developments are either closed or many years long, even for emergencies; and
- WHEREAS,* The City of Boston has already lost 2,251 units of low income subsidized housing through market conversions or renovations since 1996, according to the Community Economic Development Assistance Corporation (CEDAC), and cannot afford to lose any more; and
- WHEREAS,* The City of Boston relies on \$20 million annually through the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) administered by the U.S. Department of HUD, to provide a range of affordable housing, economic development and social service programs for our City; and
- WHEREAS,* The U.S. House of Representatives has passed H. Res 38, which directs the Chair of the House Budget Committee to fund non-defense discretionary federal programs at no more than FY 08 levels for the balance of FY 2011, resulting in an immediate \$60 billion minimum cut or 21% on an annualized basis for the specified programs; and
- WHEREAS,* If applied across the board to HUD, this would result in an annualized loss in Massachusetts of 25,000 Section 8 Vouchers, \$52 million in Public Housing funds, and \$30 million in cuts to city grant programs across the state, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, and 13,000 Project-based Section 8 apartments, based on data from CEDAC; and
- WHEREAS,* If projected House reductions were applied proportionately to Boston, the City would suffer an estimated loss of more than 4,000 Section 8 Vouchers, \$10 million in Public Housing funding, 4,000 Project Based Section 8, and \$5 million in CDBG funding in FY 2011 alone; and
- WHEREAS,* Housing budget cuts could go into affect as soon as March 4, 2011, when the current Continuing Resolution which now funds government agencies at FY 2010 levels expires, and Congress adopts appropriations for FY 2011, if H. Res. 38 limits are implemented; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has proposed a five year spending freeze on non-defense domestic discretionary spending, and is reportedly planning a 5% cut in HUD funding in the Administration's FY 2012 budget request, including a 25%, \$1 billion cut to the CDBG program; and

WHEREAS, Cuts to HUD housing programs would have a devastating and unacceptable impact on Boston's homeless and low income families, elderly and disabled people; and

WHEREAS, The City of Boston cannot sustain a \$5 million reduction in CDBG funding, as contemplated in H. Res 38 or a 25% reduction under consideration by the Obama Administration, let alone the outright elimination of CDBG proposed by the House Republican Study Committee; and

WHEREAS, A recent Boston Globe story highlighted that, under the proposed spending reductions being considered by Congress, housing and transportation would take one of the heaviest cuts at almost 17%; and

WHEREAS, Current law does not provide for Enhanced Vouchers to currently unassisted tenants in expiring HUD mortgage buildings in certain developments in Boston;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the City of Boston calls upon our state's Congressional delegation to oppose any cuts below levels approved by the U.S. House and Senate Appropriations Committees in 2010 for Section 8, Public Housing, CDBG, HOME, homelessness assistance and other vital HUD programs in the FY 2011 appropriations bill; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the City of Boston calls upon our Congressional delegation to urge the Obama Administration to request full funding for HUD programs in its FY 2012 budget proposal, including no cuts to the CDBG and HOME grant programs, and to provide increases in Public Housing and Voucher programs to fully meet Boston's needs; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the City of Boston calls upon our Congressional delegation to advocate for extension of Section 8 Enhanced Vouchers in the final FY 2011 appropriations bill to currently unassisted tenants in Boston and other expiring mortgage buildings, as proposed by the U.S. House and the Senate Appropriations Committee in November 2010.

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