



City of Cambridge

R-6
FIRST IN COUNCIL
April 5, 2021

COUNCILLOR MCGOVERN
MAYOR SIDDIQUI
VICE MAYOR MALLON
COUNCILLOR SIMMONS
COUNCILLOR CARLONE
COUNCILLOR TOOMEY
COUNCILLOR ZONDERVAN
COUNCILLOR NOLAN
COUNCILLOR SOBRINHO-WHEELER

WHEREAS: In February 2021, Cambridge State Representative Marjorie Decker, and her colleagues Representative Liz Miranda and Senator Adam Gomez introduced HD.3095 and SD.2155 – **An Act improving emergency housing assistance for children and families experiencing homelessness** – to the Massachusetts State Legislature; and

WHEREAS: Families with children face many barriers in securing Emergency Assistance (EA) shelter placements and related HomeBASE rehousing resources from the Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD); and

WHEREAS: Difficulties include accessing the application, multiple verifications requirements, and rules that force families to stay in unsafe places before being deemed "homeless enough" to qualify; and

WHEREAS: Unfortunately, families are disempowered and often do not have an advocate to help them navigate the process, which leads to far fewer families approved for shelter and HomeBASE benefits than are eligible; and

WHEREAS: This process leaves scores of children and families exposed to the trauma of unstably sheltered homelessness; and

WHEREAS: If passed, this legislation would build upon, and enshrine in statute, protections the Legislature has repeatedly passed in the budget process that do away with barriers to access and that strengthen reporting requirements; and

WHEREAS: This legislation would also create an ombudsperson office within the Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development (EOHED) to provide families with systemic support and oversight over the day-to-day administration of the EA shelter and related HomeBASE programs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That all families deserve a right to shelter with dignity and stability; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Cambridge City Council go on record supporting HD.3095 and SD.2155 – **An Act improving emergency housing assistance for children and families experiencing homelessness** – and all the families in our community who rely on State resources for housing and stability; and be it further

ORDERED: That a copy of this order be sent to the Cambridge delegation in both the Massachusetts House and Senate as well as to the Governor's office.

In City Council April 5, 2021.

Order Adopted by a ye and nay vote:-

Yeas 9; Nays 0; Absent 0.

Attest:- Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk

A true copy;

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anthony I. Wilson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

ATTEST:-

Anthony I. Wilson, City Clerk