

Offered by Councilor Rob Consalvo



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS THE CITY'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL APARTMENTS IN BOSTON

- WHEREAS,* The city of Boston's Inspectional Services Department (ISD) is comprised of five regulatory divisions whose aim is to protect and improve the quality of life for all Boston residents by effectively administering and enforcing building, housing, health, sanitation and safety regulations mandated by City and State governments; and,
- WHEREAS,* In light of the recent tragedy in Quincy, Massachusetts where an illegal apartment caught on fire and resulted in three deaths, the city of Boston must take aggressive and clear action to avert similar conditions in this city. An organized, surprise inspection in Quincy revealed several illegal housing arrangements with multiple fire hazards and other code violations; and,
- WHEREAS,* In addition to ISD's regular inspections schedule, the department receives complaints concerning illegal housing arrangements from citizens. From a public safety perspective, it is critical to have a thorough plan of action to resolve these issues. It is absolutely unacceptable for illegal housing units to exist and to ultimately put legal residents and families at risk; and,
- WHEREAS,* In an effort to better understand the use of resources within ISD and the department's response to these complaints, it is important to know the methods of tracking, archiving and following-up on violations such as illegal apartments; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*
- ORDERED,* That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss the issue of illegal apartments in Boston and how the City addresses the issue. Representatives from the appropriate City Departments, as well as the public are invited to give their perspectives on these issues.

Filed on: April 7, 2009