



# Boston City Council

## Committee on Government Operations

Maureen Feeney, *Chair*

November 30, 2010

Dear Councillors:

The Committee on Government Operations held a hearing to discuss Docket #1477, an Ordinance amending Chapter 18-1.2 (27) of the CBC regarding building permitting fees for the construction of solar photovoltaic systems. This matter was sponsored by Mayor Menino, referred to this Committee on Wednesday, October 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 and heard at a public hearing on November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2010 at which public comment was taken.

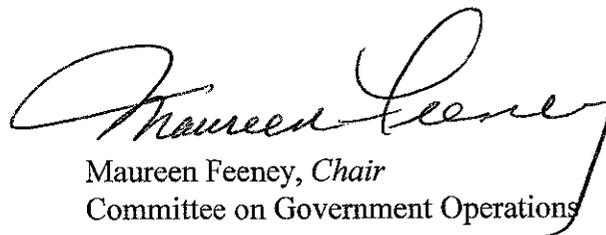
Docket #1477 is an ordinance that will remove the cost of technology for the calculation of building permit fees for the installation of solar panels and other solar photovoltaic systems. Building permit fees in the City of Boston are calculated based on the cost of construction, including all labor and materials. By removing the cost of technology out of this calculation and lowering the cost of building permit fees, the City would thereby encourage the installation of greener and cleaner technology as part of efforts to lower Boston's carbon footprint.

At the hearing, the administration testified that the current cost of installing solar technology is prohibitive for residents and businesses across the City. Although reducing building permit fees will only be a small reduction in the total cost of installing these systems, this is a significant first step to promote energy efficiency citywide. Additionally, the local green economy, so-called, is poised to generate new jobs. Unions, including IBEW Local 103, are beginning to train and have apprentices ready to install photovoltaic systems. It is important to note that the City is foregoing revenue in order to help grow this industry and generate new jobs going into the future.

The Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

**Docket #1477, Message and ordinance amending Chapter 18-1.2 (27) of the CBC, Ordinance regarding building permitting fees for the construction of solar photovoltaic systems**

based on information presented at the hearing and public comment gathered by the Committee and having considered the same, the Chair respectfully recommends that this matter ought to pass.



Maureen Feeney, *Chair*  
Committee on Government Operations