

April 6, 2022

Mayor Michelle Wu  
Boston City Hall  
1 City Hall Square  
Boston, MA 02201

Dear Mayor Wu,

We are writing to urge you to act on the campaign commitment you and we all made to allocate \$100 million of Boston's ARPA funding to affordable homeownership. We hope you will move quickly to send us orders to allocate these funds. Let's seize this opportunity to shrink the racial wealth gap and help thousands of our constituents remain in Boston.

Homeownership is a fundamental building block of family safety and security. Housing stability means better educational outcomes, less stress, and better health. Homeownership is good for our neighborhoods as well as for individual households. For most low- moderate- and middle-income families, home equity is the primary pathway to accumulate generational wealth and leave a legacy for one's children.

Much of the \$100 million should be spent to increase the number of affordable homes on the market. Through new construction, renovation, and buy down programs, we must provide the housing stock needed for thousands of homebuyers graduating from nonprofit homeownership classes every year.

The remainder should be used to expand the highly successful ONE+Boston Program and the STASH matched savings and education program for first generation homebuyers. These programs tackle specific barriers and dramatically and efficiently increase buying power. They stretch the dollars we put into new home construction. They also open up private market homes to households who would not otherwise be able to afford them. Finally, they successfully target racial disparities in Boston. To date 70% of ONE+Boston homebuyers and 96% of STASH participants have been households of color.

We would appreciate a prompt response to this letter. We stand ready to work with you to get this done.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Louijeune', with a stylized, cursive script.

Councilor Ruthzee Louijeune, At-Large



Councilor Kenzie Bok, District 8



Councilor Kendra Lara, District 6



Councilor Frank Baker, District 3



Councilor Ricardo Arroyo, District 5



Ed Flynn  
City Council President, District 2



Michael F. Flaherty, City Councilor At-Large

*Brian Worrell*

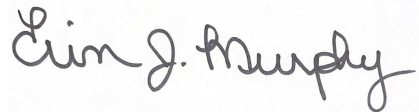
Councilor Brian Worrell, District 4



Councilor Tania Fernandes-Anderson, District 7

*Elizabeth Bredon*

Councilor Liz Bredon, District 9



Councilor Erin Murphy, At-Large



Councilor At-Large, Julia Mejia



Councilor Lydia Edwards, District 1