

CITY OF EVERETT
Office of the Mayor

Carlo DeMaria, Jr.
Mayor



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October 21, 2015

Representative John V. Fernandes, House Chair
Senator William Brownsberger, Senate Chair
Joint Committee on the Judiciary
State House
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Fernandes and Senator Brownsberger,

On behalf of the City of Everett, I am pleased to write in support of **H. 1656, An Act relative to the geographical jurisdiction of the Housing Court Department**. If enacted, this legislation would allow Everett to pursue housing matters, including safety issues such as municipal code violations, in a specialized court designed to act on these matters swiftly. This would greatly improve our ability to help protect our residents and resolve serious violations around building, fire, and sanitary codes quickly.

Everett is a densely populated urban area in the midst of rapid growth and redevelopment. As we grow, we continue to prioritize maintaining a high quality of life for all of our residents in each of our neighborhoods. We are aggressively moving to ensure that blighted properties are improved, and we anticipate a growing need for court intervention to adjudicate some of these matters in the future. District court has an extremely busy docket, and in many instances housing matters are not prioritized. Delays in court action lead to the persistence of substandard housing conditions, jeopardizing the safety of our residents.

Geographically, Everett is part of the 20% of the Commonwealth not served by housing court. This geography encompasses 31% of the state's population. H. 1656 would expand the services of housing court to our currently unserved population. As a matter of equity, I respectfully request that the committee act this session to move this important legislation forward by giving it a favorable report.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to offer input on this major issue of neighborhood stability and quality of life, and for your consideration. If you have any

questions, please feel free to contact me or Catherine Rollins of my staff at 617-394-2270.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. DeMaria', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Carlo DeMaria
Mayor

Cc: Rep. Joseph W. McGonagle, Jr.
Sen. Sal. N. DiDomenico
Rep. Chris Walsh