



March 17, 2016

Representative John V. Fernandes  
House Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 136  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Fernandes,

On March 7, 2016, the Newton City Council unanimously approved a Resolution in support of House Bill H. 1656 and Senate Bill S. 901 for expansion of housing courts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The City Council recognized the value of these housing courts as they would allow the City of Newton to pursue housing matters in a specialized court designed to specifically deal with housing issues, better protect its residents and more swiftly resolve disputes and violations.

Attached please find the Resolution which demonstrates the Council's support for these Bills.

Sincerely,

*Ted Hess-Mahan /ksp*

Councilor Ted Hess-Mahan  
Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Newton City Council

Attachment: Housing Courts Resolution



March 17, 2016

Senator William N. Brownsberger  
Senate Chair, Joint Committee on the Judiciary  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 504  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Brownsberger,

On March 7, 2016, the Newton City Council unanimously approved a Resolution in support of House Bill H. 1656 and Senate Bill S. 901 for expansion of housing courts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The City Council recognized the value of these housing courts as they would allow the City of Newton to pursue housing matters in a specialized court designed to specifically deal with housing issues, better protect its residents and more swiftly resolve disputes and violations.

Attached please find the Resolution which demonstrates the Council's support for these Bills.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ted Hess-Mahan" followed by a stylized flourish.

Councilor Ted Hess-Mahan  
Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Newton City Council

Attachment: Housing Courts Resolution



March 17, 2016

Representative Ruth Balsler  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 136  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Balsler,

On March 7, 2016, the Newton City Council unanimously approved a Resolution in support of House Bill H. 1656 and Senate Bill S. 901 for expansion of housing courts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The City Council recognized the value of these housing courts as they would allow the City of Newton to pursue housing matters in a specialized court designed to specifically deal with housing issues, better protect its residents and more swiftly resolve disputes and violations.

Attached please find the Resolution which demonstrates the Council's support for these Bills.

Sincerely,

*Ted Hess-Mahan /kcb*

Councilor Ted Hess-Mahan  
Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Newton City Council

Attachment: Housing Courts Resolution



March 17, 2016

Representative Kay Khan  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 146  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Khan,

On March 7, 2016, the Newton City Council unanimously approved a Resolution in support of House Bill H. 1656 and Senate Bill S. 901 for expansion of housing courts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The City Council recognized the value of these housing courts as they would allow the City of Newton to pursue housing matters in a specialized court designed to specifically deal with housing issues, better protect its residents and more swiftly resolve disputes and violations.

Attached please find the Resolution which demonstrates the Council's support for these Bills.

Sincerely,

*Ted Hess-Mahan /kdp*

Councilor Ted Hess-Mahan  
Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Newton City Council

Attachment: Housing Courts Resolution



March 17, 2016

Representative John Lawn  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 489  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Representative Lawn,

On March 7, 2016, the Newton City Council unanimously approved a Resolution in support of House Bill H. 1656 and Senate Bill S. 901 for expansion of housing courts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The City Council recognized the value of these housing courts as they would allow the City of Newton to pursue housing matters in a specialized court designed to specifically deal with housing issues, better protect its residents and more swiftly resolve disputes and violations.

Attached please find the Resolution which demonstrates the Council's support for these Bills.

Sincerely,

*Ted Hess-Mahan /kcp*

Councilor Ted Hess-Mahan  
Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Newton City Council

Attachment: Housing Courts Resolution



March 17, 2016

Senator Cynthia Stone Creem  
Massachusetts State House  
Room 312A  
Boston, MA 02133

Dear Senator Creem,

On March 7, 2016, the Newton City Council unanimously approved a Resolution in support of House Bill H. 1656 and Senate Bill S. 901 for expansion of housing courts in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. The City Council recognized the value of these housing courts as they would allow the City of Newton to pursue housing matters in a specialized court designed to specifically deal with housing issues, better protect its residents and more swiftly resolve disputes and violations.

Attached please find the Resolution which demonstrates the Council's support for these Bills.

Sincerely,

*Ted Hess-Mahan /k*

Councilor Ted Hess-Mahan  
Chair, Zoning & Planning Committee  
Newton City Council

Attachment: Housing Courts Resolution

CITY OF NEWTON

IN CITY COUNCIL

March 7, 2016

RESOLUTION

IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL H. 1656 AND SENATE BILL S. 901  
TO EXPAND THE HOUSING COURT'S JURISDICTION STATEWIDE

BE IT RESOLVED:

WHEREAS, House Bill H. 1656 and Senate Bill S. 901, which would expand the Housing Court's jurisdiction to the entire Commonwealth, are currently pending before the General Court; and

WHEREAS, the jurisdiction of the Housing Court now covers approximately 80% of the Commonwealth geographically, but does not currently cover the City of Newton and other areas of the Commonwealth, and only 69% of Massachusetts residents have access to the Housing Court; and

WHEREAS, the Housing Court has developed a high level of specialized expertise and specialized resources, including housing specialists, to handle the multitude of housing issues that come before the Court; and

WHEREAS, only the Housing Court regularly holds special sessions to hear cases that are brought to enforce building, housing, fire, zoning, and health codes, and to respond to health and safety emergencies; and

WHEREAS, expanding the jurisdiction of the Housing Court statewide will promote and protect a variety of housing interests, whose access to the court system is currently limited by competing caseloads on the District Courts; and

WHEREAS, if passed, this legislation would allow the City of Newton to pursue housing matters in a specialized court designed to specifically to deal with housing issues, allowing the City of Newton to better protect its residents and more swiftly and efficiently resolve code violations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Council hereby supports the passage of House Bill H. 1656 and Senate Bill S. 901; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the City Council shall send a copy of this RESOLUTION to members of the City of Newton's Legislative Delegation and to the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, respectfully requesting that they support these bills.

Under Suspension of Rules

Readings Waived and Resolution Approved

21 yeas 0 nays 3 absent (Councilors Laredo, Lipof, and Sangiolo)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Olson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

(SGD) DAVID A. OLSON, City Clerk