



CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MASSACHUSETTS  
BOARD OF ALDERMEN

**Docket # 200288**

Resolution  
Resolution

Regular Meeting, November 24, 2015  
Item ID 12963

**SUMMARY: Supporting the passage of House #1656 and Senate #901 to create Housing Courts statewide.**

**COMPLETE TEXT:**

- WHEREAS,** House Bill 1656 and Senate Bill 901 call for the creation of a statewide housing court to create a specialized court to hear matters involving housing issues, including landlord tenant issues and code enforcement issues; and
- WHEREAS,** Somerville currently is not served by any housing court that can provide this type of specialized jurisdiction; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Somerville is the most densely populated community in the Commonwealth and has one of the highest percentages of residential real estate owned by absentee landlords in the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Somerville undertakes comprehensive enforcement actions with landlords to deal with rodent problems and health and safety code violations, including, where necessary, actions in the courts of the Commonwealth; and
- WHEREAS,** Because of development in the City of Somerville, many of its residents, especially low income, elderly and immigrants, face eviction actions that impact their lives and families; and
- WHEREAS,** The Board of Aldermen believes that these circumstances warrant the creation of a housing court so that these housing related issues can be heard by a specialized court; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That this Board of Aldermen hereby supports the passage of House Bill 1656 and Senate Bill 901 and asks that a copy of this Resolution be sent to members of Somerville's Legislative Delegation and to the House and Senate Chairs of the Joint Committee on the Judiciary, respectfully requesting that they support these bills.

**SPONSORED BY:** Ald. White Jr. and the Entire Board

**RESULT: APPROVED**

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ALDERMEN OF THE CITY OF SOMERVILLE, MA, AT A REGULAR MEETING ON THE 24th DAY OF NOVEMBER, 2015.

ATTEST:

John J. Long, City Clerk