



Chelsea City Council

City Hall
500 Broadway
Chelsea, MA 02150
(617) 466-4060
(617) 466-4065 Fax

*RIA to adopt
resp.*

September 9, 2019

WHEREAS: Over one million evictions have been filed in Massachusetts over the past thirty years; and

WHEREAS: Tenants, who make up 73% of Chelsea residents, and 38% of Massachusetts residents, face increasing burdens to securing safe, stable housing accommodations for themselves and their families; and

WHEREAS: Once an eviction case is filed, it becomes part of that tenant's eviction record, which documents the tenant's history of ever having sued or been sued by a landlord; and

WHEREAS: In 2013, the Massachusetts Trial Court began placing eviction record information online, making a tenant's court record history easily accessible to the public as well as tenant screening companies; and

WHEREAS: Regardless of fault, outcome, or underlying basis for a court filing, possessing any record of an eviction filing can present a serious barrier to a tenant's ability to secure housing, and

WHEREAS: Children and minors named in eviction proceedings bear permanent records that impact their search for housing when they become adults; and

WHEREAS: Today, tenants who come to an agreement and settle with their landlord, correct errors in their record, or otherwise need support to alter the publicly available and permanently available record, lack the means to do so; and

WHEREAS: Many landlords who routinely file a notice to quit simply as a matter of course at the conclusion of a tenancy are unaware of the collateral consequences of eviction records or of the growing record of evictions they themselves are accumulating; and

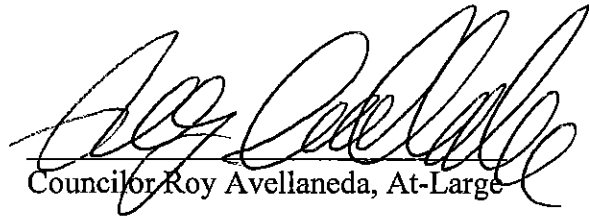
WHEREAS: Legislation introduced in the Massachusetts legislature by Rep. Michael Moran and Sen. Joseph Boncore would protect tenants from being unfairly branded with an eviction record by sealing records until a judgment is rendered and ensuring the accuracy of records; and

WHEREAS: Said legislation does not in any way alter the rights of landlords or property owners and allows all parties to exercise legal rights while moving on with their lives; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED: That the Chelsea City Council goes on record in support of S.824 and H.3566, An Act Promoting Housing Opportunity and Mobility through Eviction Sealing.



Council President Damali Vidot



Councilor Roy Avellaneda, At-Large