



CITY RENT SUBSIDY COALITION
C / O MASS ALLIANCE OF HUD TENANTS
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May 29, 2018

Dear Millennium Tower Owner or Occupant,

We are writing to you on behalf of a broad Coalition of community organizations, to ask for your support for an innovative proposal to address Boston's related crises of homelessness and an extreme shortage of affordable rental housing.

For the past three years, our Coalition has urged Mayor Walsh to dedicate a small portion of the City's \$3.2 billion annual budget, for a City-funded Low-Income Rent Subsidy Program (LRSP). Our proposal would supplement the federal Section 8 program by providing "Housing First" to community members who are living on the streets or in shelters with safe, stable, and secure housing. The Coalition's most recent letter to the Mayor, signed by 29 organizations, can be found at www.cityrentsubsidycoalition.org. More information can be found there as well.

By purchasing or renting a condominium at Millennium Tower, your unit is contributing substantial funds to the City of Boston through annual property taxes. For every \$1 million in condo value, owners pay \$10,480 per year in taxes--enough to provide a "project-based" rental subsidy for a very low-income person in one of the new, mixed income "Tax Credit" buildings targeted to people earning 60% of the Area Median Income.

A summary of our proposal is included in this mailing. Also enclosed is a letter from 10 (out of 13) Boston City Councilors to Mayor Walsh, urging him to create at least a \$5 million pilot program in the City's 2019 budget proposal. The Mayor is expected to make his final budget decisions in early June, for a Council vote on June 27, 2018.

Please note that if you are an owner we are not asking you to pay more in taxes than you pay now, just to encourage Mayor Walsh to use the taxes you already pay to improve the lives of Bostonian residents without homes. For example, with subsidy assistance from the City, the 25% of Boston residents experiencing homelessness who are currently employed could obtain "Housing First" to stabilize their lives and families.

We ask that you call or email Mayor Walsh to ask him to support this plan. Call Mayor Walsh at 617-635-4000 or 311 and leave a message, or email the Mayor at mayor@boston.gov. We have provided a suggested script:

Dear Mayor Walsh,

As an owner/renter of a condominium unit in Millennium Tower, I/we/my unit contributes more than _____ each year in property taxes to the City of Boston. I strongly support using these funds, for a City-funded Low-Income Rent Subsidy Program, to provide "Housing First" for people without homes. Getting community members experiencing homelessness off the streets and into stable homes will enable them to get and keep jobs, improve their lives and enhance the quality of life for all of Boston. Committing the \$10.9 million paid in property taxes each year by Millennium Tower owners alone, is enough to house 1,000 people currently experiencing homelessness in stable apartments, on a permanent basis. This is a sound and humane idea, and I urge you to support it.

Sincerely,

<Your Name>

We appreciate your support! Please copy cityrentsubsidycoalition@gmail.com on any email you send, and let us know if you can make a phone call. If you want more information and would like to get more involved, please contact Michael Kane at 617-233-1885, or Cassie Hurd at 617-876-5312.

Thank you for your support,

Michael Kane,
Mass Alliance of HUD Tenants

Cassie Hurd,
Boston Homeless Solidarity Committee

Ronda Jackson,
Save Our Section 8 City Policy Committee

Enclosures:

Fact Sheet
City Council letter to Mayor Walsh, 4/6/18