**Sample Right to Counsel in Eviction Cases Resolution**

WHEREAS: Over 40,000 households in Massachusetts were served with eviction papers in 2018; and

WHEREAS: Over 92% of these tenants received no legal guidance once the notice was delivered, nor assistance from an attorney in fighting the eviction in court; and

WHEREAS: Many tenants are unaware of their rights and legal protections both in and out of the courtroom; and

WHEREAS: Access to critical legal resources, guidance and support from an legal advocate prior to a court eviction can protect families from being displaced by an illegal or unnecessary eviction, prevent homelessness, and create a path to housing stability; and

WHEREAS: The Massachusetts Right to Counsel Coalition is a broad coalition of municipal leaders, housing advocates, and community groups who support legislation to provide a right to counsel in Massachusetts for those with low income who are facing eviction, and ensure access to resources and assistance that will prevent eviction and stabilize their housing; and

WHEREAS: Three Right to Counsel bills have been refiled for the 2019-20 Session and assigned to the Joint Committee on the Judiciary: S.913 ‘An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings’ filed by Senator Sal N. DiDomenico; H.3456 ‘An Act to ensure right to counsel in eviction proceedings’ filed by Representative Chynah Tyler; and H.1537 ‘An Act establishing a right to counsel in certain eviction cases’ filed by Representatives David M. Rogers and Michael S. Day; now therefore be it

ORDERED: The City/Town of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ hereby requests \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to join “The City/Town of\_\_\_\_\_\_” as an official supporter of the Massachusetts Right to Counsel Campaign.