



Boston city councilors propose homeowner surcharge

O’Ryan Johnson Wednesday, February 10, 2016

Boston City Councilor Michael Flaherty. Staff photo by Angela Rowlings.

Two Boston city councilors are introducing a proposal to add a 1 percent surcharge to homeowners’ tax bills to fund such items as affordable housing and new green space.

The surcharge would be introduced under the Community Preservation Act and would be assessed on most tax bills, said freshman City Councilor Andrea Campbell, who is sponsoring the measure with City Council veteran Michael Flaherty.

“This is an opportunity to generate more money for affordable housing, to create more open space, to create more green space, all things that are important to District 4 voters,” Campbell said, referring to the Dorchester and Mattapan neighborhoods she represents.



Credit: Angela Rowlings (file)

The measure needs the approval of the City Council and then it would be put before city voters.

Flaherty could not be reached for comment. He introduced the same provision in 2001, but voters rejected it by a 4-3 margin.

Back then the bill was doomed by voters in South Boston and West Roxbury, but buoyed by those in Jamaica Plain and the Back Bay.

Campbell said, this time, she feels as though the city is ready for it. She said the measure is expected to cost the average home owner \$23.

“This is a new day and age,” she said.

Mayor Martin J. Walsh has not yet taken a position on the measure, said spokeswoman Bonnie McGillpin.

“We are analyzing the proposal while seeking input from business and advocacy groups,” she said.