

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR JULIA MEJIA



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND
TWENTY-SIX**

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR LONG-TERM AND SUSTAINABLE
PUBLIC INVESTMENT IN SCHOOL-YEAR YOUTH JOBS**

WHEREAS, Year-round youth jobs during the summer and school year are critical core investments that the City of Boston and communities must prioritize, just as the City provides public funding for schools, summer jobs, libraries, public health, housing, parks, and physical infrastructure; *and*

WHEREAS, Year-round youth jobs are foundational to young people's growth and leadership, and community leaders who are now adults became leaders because of jobs they had during both the summer and school year as youth; *and*

WHEREAS, Investing in school-year youth jobs has long-term positive outcomes for young people and the community far outweighing their cost, and cutting funding for school-year youth jobs would be financially irresponsible because of the long-term costs associated with the downstream consequences of defunding youth jobs that will need to be addressed, such as housing, food, health, and policing; *and*

WHEREAS, School-year jobs allow young people to support themselves, their families, the city, and the economy for 12 months, not just two months a year; *and*

WHEREAS, School-year jobs are critical for sustaining organizations which depend on youth to lead community programs during the school year, and to receive training during the school year to lead summer programming, such as afterschool and summer programs for young children; *and*

WHEREAS, A City budget is a moral document that reflects our priorities as a City, and investing in young people is a priority; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston has invested funds from the City operating budget into school-year youth jobs since at least 2006, reaching a high of 2,531 school-year slots in 2023-2024; *and*

WHEREAS, Young people have organized for two decades for investment in jobs that last all year-round, including jobs for immigrant youth, that pay more than minimum wage, and jobs last 12 months out of the year; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston should strive for a major expansion of and investment in school-year jobs with public funding as a foundation, similar to the Mayor's Summer Jobs Guarantee, which relies on public funding through the City operating budget providing about 50% of the jobs, and where private placements and funding supplement but do not replace public investment; *and*

WHEREAS, The City operating budget funded at least \$5.5 million for 1,804 school-year job slots at 153 worksites, including 983 jobs at 96 community-based sites, 317 jobs at 26 Boston Centers for Youth and Families community centers, 35 jobs at Boston Housing Authority, and 43 jobs at the Boston Student Advisory Council; *and*

WHEREAS, Community groups and City agencies had capacity to host 5,154 school-year jobs in the 2025-2026 school year but only received City funding for 1,804 jobs; *and*

WHEREAS, While three organizations that received 2025-2026 SuccessLink school-year jobs funding announced they will hire 475 young people, about 150 community-based organizations and City programs have no money committed to replace the approximately 1,600 jobs they hosted previously using City funds; *and*

WHEREAS, The amount of City funding and the number of City-funded jobs can be clearly measured and used as accountability measures, while it is difficult to clearly measure private placements and funding to know whether jobs are increasing or counting jobs that existed previously; *and*

WHEREAS, Beyond three organizations committing to hiring 475 young people, no job placements or clear dollar amounts for private funding have been announced for next school year; **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council supports and values young people and declares that youth jobs deserve to be fully funded in the budget, calls for continuing strong public investment from the City operating budget in school-year youth jobs as an

area that is core to public infrastructure and the wellbeing of the city, and envisions a City-funded year-round youth jobs programs that thrives and expands for the next 20 years and beyond; ***AND BE IT FURTHER***

RESOLVED, That the Boston City Council calls for any plans for private placements and/or funding for school-year jobs to be in addition to, not to replace, City funding for youth jobs, and for these private funding plans to include clear and specific dollar goals for fundraising and clear measurements that accurately track jobs from year to year.

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