

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



## CITY OF BOSTON

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IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

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### RESOLUTION CALLING ON BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO JOIN THE NATIONWIDE SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION SEEKING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IMPACTS

**WHEREAS**, School districts and municipalities across the United States have filed litigation against major social media companies, consolidated in federal court as *Social Media Adolescent Addiction/Personal Injury Products Liability Litigation (MDL No. 3047)*, alleging that these platforms have contributed to a nationwide youth mental health crisis and created a public nuisance that has disrupted educational environments, and numerous school districts nationwide have joined or are pursuing claims in this litigation; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Boston Public Schools has already recognized youth mental health as a critical priority, investing in behavioral health services and acknowledging the direct connection between student well-being and academic success; *and*

**WHEREAS**, The litigation seeks to hold social media companies accountable for the downstream costs imposed on public institutions and to recover financial resources that could be reinvested into student services, prevention efforts, and school-based mental health supports; *and*

**WHEREAS**, Participation in this litigation is typically pursued on a contingency fee basis, meaning that school districts incur no upfront costs while preserving the opportunity to recover funds to offset the growing financial burden associated with addressing student mental health needs; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**RESOLVED**: That the Boston City Council calls upon Boston Public Schools to conduct a thorough and timely evaluation of the costs and benefits of joining the nationwide social media litigation, and to present its findings to the Boston School Committee, in order to determine whether participation would advance the City's commitment to student mental health, educational equity, and responsible fiscal stewardship.

Filed on: May 6, 2026