



Boston City Council
Erin J. Murphy
Councilor - At-Large

Statement on the Youth Jobs & Resource Fair Incident and Call for Rescheduling

As a steadfast advocate for Boston's youth employment initiatives, I have dedicated the past four years to collaborating with the City and the Office of Youth Employment to ensure that every young person seeking a summer job has access to one. This commitment includes organizing hearings to streamline application processes and reduce barriers for our city's youth.

Saturday, I attended the FutureBOS Youth Jobs & Resource Fair at the Reggie Lewis Center to support our young residents, their families, city departments, and nonprofit organizations dedicated to providing employment opportunities. Regrettably, the event was marred by overcrowding and insufficient security measures. Notably, there was an absence of Boston Police details, leaving the venue's security personnel overwhelmed when altercations erupted. I witnessed large groups of youths congregating without clear direction, leading to multiple fights that posed significant safety risks. It was only after an off-duty officer intervened that additional law enforcement arrived to manage the situation. Consequently, employers were compelled to pack up and leave midway through the fair to ensure everyone's safety.

This incident underscores the critical need for proactive planning and coordination with our police and first responders for large-scale events. Ensuring a safe environment should not be an afterthought but a foundational aspect of event planning. I am grateful for the prompt response of the Boston Police officers and State Police, whose actions prevented further escalation.

In light of these events, I urge the Mayor's Office to organize a rescheduled job fair that prioritizes safety and inclusivity. This rescheduled event should ensure that all participants, including students with disabilities, have equitable access to employment opportunities. This aligns with the hearing order I introduced on February 26, 2025, aimed at expanding internship opportunities for students with disabilities within Boston Public Schools. Our city's youth deserve opportunities to thrive in environments that are both enriching and secure.