

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR MINIARD CULPEPPER



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXAMINE BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS' POTENTIAL PARTICIPATION IN NATIONWIDE SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION

WHEREAS, Youth mental health challenges have become an increasing concern nationwide and locally, impacting students' well-being, academic performance, and overall school climate; *and*

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 has already made youth mental health a visible public priority, including the launch of the Heads Up Boston initiative to destigmatize youth mental health and a \$21 million, five-year investment in youth and family mental health services, providing direct support to thousands of young people; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools has recognized the importance of student behavioral health through its Behavioral Health Services framework, which acknowledges 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***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to examine youth mental health in Boston Public Schools, including current investments, supports, and outcomes, as well as external factors affecting student well-being, including the impact of social media and the potential role of ongoing

nationwide litigation; and that representatives of the Boston Public Schools and other interested parties shall be invited to attend.

Filed on: May 6, 2026