



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS RESOURCES FOR EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND WAYS TO ENSURE ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION FOR BOSTON FAMILIES

WHEREAS: Early Childhood Education is critical to a child's development. According to UMass Global, millions of neural connections are constantly forming in a child's brain during their first five years of development; *and*

WHEREAS: A child's brain doubles in size during the first twelve months, and completes about 90% of its growth by the age of five. These neural pathways allow a child to move, think, communicate, understand, and interact with the world around them; *and*

WHEREAS: Research has shown that children who receive a high-quality education before the age of five benefit in the medium to long-term, and are more likely to be prepared for later grades, graduate high school, and be higher income earners in the workforce; *and*

WHEREAS: In Boston, a child is eligible for Universal Pre-Kindergarten (UPK) if they are 3 or 4 years old by September 1st of the school year they are applying to. The UPK program is funded by the city at no cost to families, and is available through the Boston Public Schools (BPS), community-based providers, and family child care providers. The program is generally a 6.5 hour school day for 180 days per year; *and*

WHEREAS: UPK is an extremely valuable program for our families in Boston, and we must ensure our families in Boston have access to high quality and free preschool opportunities, and expand the number of seats to include more families. We must also ensure that our families of color have access and opportunities to enroll in UPK programs, and that families are aware of the opportunities in UPK programs; *and*

WHEREAS: We also need to ensure that there are enough qualified community-based providers for UPK, as well as enough culturally sensitive providers that can cater to our diverse families and needs; *and*

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss resources available for early childhood education, as well as ways to ensure equitable access for families to UPK. Representatives from the City of Boston's Veterans Services and other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend.