

BY COUNCILOR ERIN J. MURPHY



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING YOUTH SUMMER JOBS, ACCESS, AND READINESS FOR THE UPCOMING SUMMER

WHEREAS: Summer youth employment is a proven tool for supporting the social, emotional, and economic well-being of young people, while also strengthening families and communities across the City of Boston; and

WHEREAS: Access to meaningful summer employment provides young people with opportunities to build confidence, develop job readiness and life skills, establish positive relationships with adults and peers, earn income, and engage in structured, supportive environments during the summer months; and

WHEREAS: Summer jobs serve as a critical preventive and healing strategy, particularly for young people facing barriers related to trauma, housing instability, family caregiving responsibilities, disability, or involvement with multiple City systems; and

WHEREAS: The City of Boston administers youth summer employment programming through the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment, including partnerships with community-based organizations and employers to deliver job placements and workforce development opportunities; and

WHEREAS: Despite sustained demand from youth and families across Boston, barriers such as limited outreach, application challenges, placement mismatches, accessibility gaps, staffing capacity, and insufficient program funding can result in unfilled positions or inequitable access to opportunities; and

WHEREAS: Ensuring equitable access to youth summer employment must include intentional outreach, accommodations, and program design so that youth with disabilities have the same opportunities to participate, succeed, and benefit from summer jobs as their peers; and

WHEREAS: Ensuring that youth summer employment programs are fully funded, adequately staffed, and accessible across all neighborhoods is essential to meeting the needs of Boston's young people and supporting families during the summer months; and

WHEREAS: Early planning, clear communication, and coordination across City departments and community partners are critical to maximizing participation, supporting employers, and ensuring successful outcomes for youth;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED:

That the appropriate Committee of the Boston City Council shall hold a hearing to examine the City of Boston's youth summer employment programs and preparedness for the upcoming summer, including but not limited to:

1. The City's goals, capacity, and projected number of youth job placements for the upcoming summer
2. Outreach, application, and placement processes, including barriers to access for youth and families
3. Accessibility, accommodations, and support for youth with disabilities and other youth facing barriers to participation
4. Support for youth with identified risk factors or involvement with multiple City systems
5. Staffing, funding levels, and operational readiness within the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment
6. Partnerships with community-based organizations and employers to ensure quality, equitable job opportunities
7. Strategies to ensure that available youth summer jobs are filled and aligned with the needs of Boston's young people

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED: That representatives from the Department of Youth Engagement and Employment, the Mayor's Office, Youth Engagement and Advancement, the Office of Youth Employment and Opportunity, and other relevant City officials and community partners shall be invited to testify.

Filed in City Council: February 4, 2026