

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, JULIA MEJIA, LIZ BREADON,  
COLETTA ZAPATA, DURKAN, FITZGERALD, MEJIA, MURPHY, FLYNN, SANTANA,  
WEBER AND LOUIJEUNE



**CITY OF BOSTON**

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**IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE**

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**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE WAYS OF  
USING MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS TO HOST  
CHILDCARE CENTERS**

**WHEREAS,** The costs of childcare forces many families in Boston to leave the workforce to care for their young children, and many other families overwhelmed just to make ends meet; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Boston childcare costs an average of \$3,648 a month, according to the Department of Labor Women's Bureau, which is more than half the average gross monthly salary of \$6,216 for someone working in Boston, more than the average \$2,999 monthly mortgage payment and nearly triple the average \$1,325 monthly payment for in-state college tuition at UMass Boston; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Per the Office of Early Childhood's report on the 2021 Child Care Census Survey, Boston's average childcare center costs are even higher than the state average, which already forces Massachusetts families to pay the second highest average monthly costs for center-based childcare of any state; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Many childcare centers were forced to close in Boston during and after the pandemic and, according to the OOE, as of 2024 there were an estimated 37,000 children aged 0 to 5 years old living in Boston, and only 24,895 licensed childcare seats to meet the childcare needs of all residents in the city; *and*

**WHEREAS,** There are at least 124 municipal buildings in Boston and only a few of them host early learning and childcare centers; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Several schools are expected to close in a wave of consolidation during the next decade, some of which could be converted into childcare centers while they wait their future fate; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The city is building a number of new buildings, which should be built with the ability to host a child care center in them; *and*

**WHEREAS,** While the City has taken steps in recent years to improve our early learning infrastructure, such as Mayor Michelle Wu's Executive Order establishing additional policy guidance for Inclusion of Daycare Facilities (IDF) Zoning Provisions, changes have not encompassed the full scale of childcare needs; *and*

**WHEREAS,** While the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) offers some support through its City Hall Childcare Program, the program has a waitlist, and most of the Department's other facilities do not utilize their space for child cares, despite having previously done so; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Roughly 81% of women in Boston who are parents or caretakers of young children were more likely than working fathers to reduce their hours or leave the workforce altogether to care for children at home during the COVID-19 pandemic; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The number of young children aged (5) five years and under who resided in Boston between 2017-20 declined 10 percent, some of which is a direct reflection of high childcare costs forcing families to leave as they seek affordable childcare elsewhere, according to American Community Survey results; *and*

**WHEREAS,** Establishing more childcare spaces in municipal buildings would lower space costs for operators, savings that could then be passed along to families to help them access childcare when they cannot access it otherwise; *and*

**WHEREAS,** The City must expand the scope of childcare facilities and services in municipal buildings in an effort to provide much-needed seats and help lower costs for operators and families; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***

**ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council convene a hearing to explore how the City can improve upon our childcare infrastructure by opening early learning and childcare spaces in municipal buildings across the city, and that representatives from the Boston Centers for Youth and Families, Boston Public Schools, Property Management, Public Facilities, Mayor's Office of Housing, the Office of Early Childhood and any other relevant and interested parties shall be invited to attend and testify.

Filed on: August 4, 2025