

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR BRIAN WORRELL



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

**ORDER FOR A HEARING TO REVIEW AND
STRENGTHEN BOSTON'S SUMMER
SAFETY AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING
PLAN**

WHEREAS, Boston experiences violence year-round, and the summer season can intensify risk due to school being out, longer days, and increased public activity; *and*

WHEREAS, Mayor Michelle Wu released a citywide Plan for a Safe, Healthy and Active Summer in 2025 that frames safety as the presence of opportunity, connection, and community, and calls for cross-department coordination and measurable implementation *and*

WHEREAS, The City has identified “Opportunity Zones” for targeted summer activation in areas where violence concentrates, and residents deserve transparency on what specific programming, staffing, outreach, and investments will be delivered in these locations each summer, particularly in Dorchester (Talbot Ave corridor; Bowdoin & Geneva; Four Corners; Harambee Park; Roberts Playground; Ronan Park) and Roxbury (Dudley St corridor; Walnut Ave corridor; Malcolm X Park; Madison Park Fields); *and*

WHEREAS, Expanding structured, youth-centered programming during after-school, evening, and weekend hours, especially “after dark” options, can help reduce conflict and increase safe spaces for youth to gather; *and*

WHEREAS, The City’s Boston After Dark initiative demonstrates the scale and demand for Friday-night programming, including growth from 18 events serving 1,000 youth in 2024 to 23 events engaging 1,500+ youth in 2025, and Council oversight is needed to ensure consistent access across neighborhoods and school vacation periods; *and*

WHEREAS, Residents also need clear, proactive plans each year for summer jobs, “gap week” programming between school and jobs, pool/park/BCYF readiness and staffing, and violence intervention, healing, and prevention resources in the neighborhoods most impacted; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to review implementation of the Mayor’s Summer Safety Plan and evaluate readiness for the upcoming summer and future summers, including: (1) after-school and after-dark programming; (2) youth jobs and gap-week programming; (3) violence intervention and prevention strategy and coordination;

(4) site readiness and staffing for BCYF centers, pools, parks, and libraries; (5) neighborhood-level plans for Opportunity Zones; and (6) performance measures and public-facing reporting; **BE IT FURTHER**

ORDERED: That representatives from OYEA, BCYF, BPHC (Office of Violence Prevention), Boston Police Department, Boston Housing Authority, Parks and Recreation, Boston Public Library, Boston Public Schools, and relevant community-based organizations and residents be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 30, 2026