

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR EDWARD M. FLYNN



## CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY SIX

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMITTEE TO MAINTAIN AND ATTRACT YOUNG ADULTS TO BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** Young adults play a critical role in the City of Boston's community and economy. Beginning in the 1980s, cities experienced a revitalization driven by the growth of industries, which fostered improved communication and networking among young adults. Students that come from across the world look to remain in the city after graduation to start a career and plant their roots. However, the COVID-19 pandemic accelerated the migration of both the youth and older generation out of cities. This trend has been further reinforced by the rising cost of living, the lack of affordable housing and employment opportunities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The 2026 Young Residents Survey by the Greater Boston Chamber of Commerce Foundation found that a staggering 26% of residents in their 20s and 30s are likely to leave Boston within the next five years. Young residents indicated that job opportunities, affordability, and public safety are the driving factors that determine if they will choose to stay in Boston; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Reports indicate access to entry level jobs has also been difficult. According to the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the unemployment rate for college graduates ages 22-27 reached 5.6% at the end of 2026, up from the 4.2% overall unemployment rate at the time. A survey by Boston.com indicated that of the 115 respondents in the Greater Boston area, 40% have been applying to jobs for over a year; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Housing production has dropped significantly in Boston in recent years - from 9,800 units approved in 2020, and falling to a mere 852 units in the first half of 2025. A Boston Globe report also indicated that Boston lagged 16 peer cities in production in 2024; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Millennials and Gen Z will continue to face more complex issues, including artificial intelligence (AI) regulation and digital dependency. It is appropriate that all options be studied to maintain and attract young people to ensure that the City of Boston remains a desirable place to live and do business; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- RESOLVED:** That the Boston City Council support the creation of a committee composed of young adult residents, business professionals, and City leaders dedicated to maintaining and attracting young adults to the City of Boston.

Filed on: May 6, 2026