

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, JULIA MEJIA, BOK, ARROYO, COLETTA, BREADON FERNANDES ANDERSON, LARA, LOUIJEUNE, MURPHY AND FLYNN



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT VIA SCHOLARSHIPS FOR BPS STUDENTS TO INCREASE ACCESS TO ALL FORMS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

WHEREAS, The City of Boston is the birthplace of both public and higher education in the United States, predating the founding of the country by nearly a century and a half; *and*

WHEREAS, The value and importance of a high-quality education has only increased in the ensuing 387 years; *and*

WHEREAS, Boston Public Schools have successfully increased the percentage of public school students who enroll in higher education pathways; *and*

WHEREAS, This has been accomplished despite 80% of Boston Public School students coming from low-income families and with most students coming from marginalized communities that are less able to access high-quality educational opportunities due to structural historical and on-going disparities & inequities; *and*

WHEREAS, Over half of low-income college students drop out due to the high cost of educational opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, The majority of low-income students will choose to pursue lower degrees to save on costs, with 51% enrolling in two-year programs compared to 22% of high-income students; *and*

WHEREAS, 25% of BPS Valedictorians do not receive a degree within 6 years of collegiate studies, 40% make \$50,000 or less, and 50% pay on-going college debts; *and*

WHEREAS, Black families in Massachusetts make an average of \$66,792 and Latinx families make an average of \$54,226, compared to their White non-Hispanic counterparts who earn an average of \$97,665, reducing the ability for these students to look to family members to help finance educational opportunities; *and*

WHEREAS, The City of Boston currently provides tuition support for 75 students, giving up to \$2,500 per year; *and*

- WHEREAS,** \$2,500 is less than 7% of the current cost to attend UMass Boston or UMass Amherst and less than 5% of current cost to attend Boston University or Northeastern University; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Students can reasonably expect to spend \$700-\$1000 on books alone per year; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to the Greater Boston Food Bank, 37% of public university students in Boston are food insecure; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These numbers increase to 52% of Black students, 47% of Latinx students, 46% of LGBTQ+ students, and 53% of student-parents; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Current assistance may only be utilized at community colleges, 4-year colleges, and universities, excluding higher education opportunities in the vocational-technical career pathways necessary to continue growing and developing the City; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston's many non-profit institutions including colleges and universities benefit from our highly skilled, educated, diverse workforce, yet do not pay taxes to support the costs of these services; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Many of these institutions participate in the Payment In Lieu Of Tax (PILOT) program, yet continue pay significantly less than requested—particularly educational institutions that contribute only 68% of the funds requested; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Tulsa, OK currently provides a scholarship covering full tuition and fees for 63 credit hours—equivalent to three years— to every graduating senior with at least a 2.0 GPA; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston can provide families with the security and peace-of-mind associated with knowing they will be able to see their children learn, grow, and improve their communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Boston's continued global leadership will require increasing numbers of highly skilled researchers, professionals, tradespersons and craftspersons; ***NOW, THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore providing Boston Public School students with increased tuition assistance, as well as ways in which our community partners, institutions, and businesses may collaborated to ensure all Boston students are able to access high-quality educational opportunities in all career pathways, and that representatives from the Center For Working Families, Economic Opportunity And Inclusion, Workforce Development, Youth Employment and Opportunity, Youth Engagement and Advancement, and other relevant and interested parties be invited to attend.