



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE 2026 MAYOR'S YOUTH SUMMIT AND COMMENDING THE WORK OF THE OFFICE OF YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Boston has long recognized the importance of centering young people in civic life and creating opportunities for youth leadership, expression, and community connection; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Youth Summit is a citywide celebration designed to engage and inspire Boston's young people, celebrate their contributions to the City's culture, and build connections between youth and City leadership; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Youth Summit was first launched in 1994 under the administration of Mayor Thomas M. Menino and was held annually for ten years as a flagship youth engagement event; and

WHEREAS, following a hiatus, the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement brought the Mayor's Youth Summit back in 2024, marking both the twentieth anniversary since the event was last held and the thirtieth anniversary of its inception; and

WHEREAS, the continued hosting of the Mayor's Youth Summit reflects a renewed and sustained commitment to uplifting youth voice, with 2026 representing the third consecutive year of the Summit since its revival; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Youth Summit is held annually during February Break and provides an inclusive and celebratory space for young people from across Boston's neighborhoods to gather, connect, and participate in civic life; and

WHEREAS, the 2026 Mayor's Youth Summit will take place on Saturday, February 21, 2026, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Artists for Humanity EpiCenter, and will feature free food, youth performances, guest speakers, interactive activities, giveaways, and opportunities for youth engagement; and

WHEREAS, the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement, operating within the Human Services Cabinet, leads this work and oversees additional initiatives such as the Mayor's Youth Council and the Youth Lead the Change participatory budgeting program; and

WHEREAS, Executive Director Pedro Cruz has provided strong leadership in advancing the mission of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement and in expanding meaningful, youth-centered programming across the City; and

WHEREAS, the Human Services Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief José F. Massó, plays a critical role in coordinating services and initiatives that support youth, families, and communities throughout Boston; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Boston City Council hereby expresses its strong support for the 2026 Mayor's Youth Summit and applauds the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement for successfully reviving and sustaining this important citywide event; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Council commends Executive Director Pedro Cruz and the staff of the Office of Youth Engagement and Advancement for their dedication to amplifying youth voices and fostering civic engagement among Boston's young people; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Boston City Council encourages young residents, families, schools, and community organizations across the City to participate in and promote the 2026 Mayor's Youth Summit; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution be adopted in recognition of the City's shared commitment to investing in Boston's youth and strengthening opportunities for leadership, connection, and civic participation.

Filed in City Council: February 4, 2026