

OFFERED BY COUNCILORS BRIAN WORRELL, JULIA MEJIA, BENJAMIN WEBER,
COLETTA ZAPATA, FERNANDES ANDERSON, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, MURPHY,
PEPÉN, SANTANA, AND LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO DISCUSS BPS' PLANS TO PROTECT STUDENTS DURING HEAT EMERGENCIES

- WHEREAS,** Boston is experiencing earlier, hotter, longer, and more frequent heat emergencies; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The impacts of extreme heat are most dangerous for our seniors and our youth; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Ten Boston Public Schools, including Bates Elementary, Otis Elementary, Mather Elementary, Kenny Elementary, Lee Academy, Charles H. Taylor, Melvin H. King Middle, Melvin H. King High, Community Academy, and Mozart Elementary, are not equipped with adequate cooling systems, instead relying upon open windows and fans to keep facilities cool; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Several of these facilities are utilized during the summer months; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Nearly all of these schools are housed in environmental justice communities; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to BPS data, the temperature inside schools such as Lee Academy without these systems have reached over 90 degrees; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Exposure to these high temperatures for extended periods of time puts students' and faculties' health and wellbeing at risk; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Three years ago, Boston Public Schools only had 35 school buildings with air conditioning, and now there are 109 schools with cooling systems, showing progress can be made when there's a concerted effort; *and*
- WHEREAS,** There is a plan for some of the 10 schools, but there has yet to be a clear plan some of the remaining schools; *and*
- WHEREAS,** An immediate plan for installing AC in all remaining BPS schools, or outlining other ways to mitigate the heat, must be enacted in order to ensure the safety of all students; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- ORDERED:** That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss plans to ensure all schools have the HVAC systems necessary to provide a safe, comfortable learning and teaching environment year-round and that

contingency plans are in place during the interim period and that representatives from Boston Public Schools and other interested parties be invited to testify.

Filed on: January 3, 2025