

OFFERED BY COUNCILOR RUTHZEE LOUIJEUNE



CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND TWENTY FIVE

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF
YOUTH GUIDANCE BOSTON**

WHEREAS, Youth Guidance Boston is committed to creating and implementing school-based programs that empower youth to overcome obstacles, focus on their education, and ultimately succeed in school and in life; *and*

WHEREAS, Youth Guidance Boston offers two hallmark, evidence-based initiatives, Becoming a Man (BAM) and Working on Womanhood (WOW), that use a trauma-informed group counseling approach to support middle- and high-school students; *and*

WHEREAS, BAM was launched in BPS in fall 2017, initially serving 150 young men, and has since expanded to 16 schools across Boston, Cambridge, and Somerville Public School Districts, now reaching over 900 boys and young men; *and*

WHEREAS, WOW similarly provides vital support for young women, serving over 250 participants across Greater Boston, equipping them with strategies to overcome trauma, develop leadership skills, and succeed academically; *and*

WHEREAS, 94% of participating youth scholars report that BAM and WOW have helped them make better decisions, and 62% of WOW scholars experienced fewer PTSD symptoms, demonstrating the transformative power of these programs; *and*

WHEREAS, Youth Guidance Boston's school-based approach works by embedding trained BAM Youth Specialists and WOW Counselors in our schools, ensuring individualized mentorship, and the crucial social and emotional support system that enable students to thrive; *and*

WHEREAS, Stable financial support from the Boston Public Schools and the City of Boston is critical to sustaining these effective programs, particularly given potential federal and state funding cuts that threaten to undermine these holistic initiatives; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED: That the Boston City Council hereby recognizes and applauds Youth Guidance Boston's commitment to strengthening youth outcomes, endorses the success of its *Becoming a Man* and *Working on Womanhood* programs, and encourages continued support and partnership to sustain and expand these transformative efforts that uplift the next generation of leaders.