

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Kendra Lara, Arroyo, Breadon, Coletta, Fernandes Anderson, Louijeune and Flynn



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING EXAMINING THE IMPLEMENTATION AND OUTCOMES OF RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES IN BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS,** The Boston Public Schools' Code of Conduct was first updated in 2013 to include restorative justice as one possible alternative to suspension; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The BPS Office of Restorative Justice is staffed by three people for the entire district, which consists of 125 schools; *and*
- WHEREAS,** The BPS Department of Safety Services currently employs 75 Boston School Safety Officers at school sites throughout the city and purportedly intends to spend \$30 million over five years on new surveillance cameras; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Restorative justice is an alternative approach to preventing and addressing harm, as well as a method utilized to break the school-to-prison pipeline; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Schools that use restorative justice practices to empower students to resolve conflicts on their own and in small groups with counselors and social workers contribute to a drastic reduction in suspension and expulsion rates, with students reporting feeling happier and safer; *and*
- WHEREAS,** Since the inclusion of restorative justice in the BPS Code of Conduct in 2013, BPS has failed to inform the public of the extent to which restorative justice has been meaningfully and successfully implemented throughout the District. Therefore, we are requesting a full audit of the BPS Office of Restorative Justice to provide us with data as it relates to the office's practices and the results as it pertains to the impact and outcomes; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing on the implementation and outcomes of Restorative Justice practices in Boston Public Schools. Representatives from Boston Public Schools, particularly the Department of Student and Community Impact, the Office of Restorative Justice and Behavioral Health Services, as well as advocacy organizations such as the NAACP Boston, ACLU of Massachusetts, Lawyers for Civil Rights, Citizens for Juvenile Justice, Massachusetts Advocates for Children, The EdLaw Project, Center for Restorative Justice at Suffolk, mental health advocates, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify.

Filed in Council: January 23, 2023