



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING PUBLIC SAFETY MEASURE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR BOSTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS AND BOSTON POLICE

- WHEREAS,* The audit of Boston Public Schools by the state Department of Elementary and Secondary Education reported that the Boston Public School system does not support the physical, social, and emotional well-being of all students and does not ensure a safe environment for all students; and,
- WHEREAS,* A public safety issue has arisen in that too many Boston Public School children and educators are being assaulted and seriously hurt as reported in the local media as of late. If our students are going to be able to compete in a global economy, at the least they need to feel safe at school so they can learn; and,
- WHEREAS,* Part of the state-mandated improvement plan included an evaluation from an independent consultant, Great City Schools, who made recommendations and reported them to the Boston School Committee on January 18, 2023; and,
- WHEREAS,* Among the recommendations from the independent consultant were the formation of an internal police department that would place officers back on campus, creating an anonymous safety hotline, speeding up the recruitment of safety specialists and coming to an agreement on information sharing with the Boston Police Department; and,
- WHEREAS,* The Commonwealth of Massachusetts also sought a review of the reduction of school police as the impacts of removal of the school police is directly tied to violence and violence prevention in our schools; and,
- WHEREAS,* Since police were taken out of district schools in the Summer of 2021, staff reported to the independent consultant that they spend more time addressing safety concerns and less time in the classroom; and,
- WHEREAS,* The recent rise in violent offenses toward students and educators in the Boston Public Schools requires immediate public safety attention and actions to ensure a safe learning environment for all who frequent our schools.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to examine how the Boston Police Department, the BPS School Safety Officers and the Boston Public School Administration adopts and implements measures and policies that ensures all our students and staff are safe. Representatives from the Boston Police Department, City of Boston, Boston Public Schools, MBTA Transit Police Department, the Office of Safety Services in Boston Public Schools, members of the public, and other interested parties shall be invited and are encouraged to attend.

Filed in Council: January 20, 2023