

Offered by City Councilors Julia Mejia and Kim Janey



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING IDENTIFYING RESTORATIVE JUSTICE PRACTICES AND THE ROLE OF POLICE IN OUR SCHOOLS

- WHEREAS,** Boston School Police Officers, while not BPD officers outright, perform the duties under the general guidelines of the Boston City Police at school sites throughout the city; and.
- WHEREAS,** The BPS Department of Safety Services currently employes 75 Boston School Police Officers at school sites throughout the city; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In recent years, Boston School Police have compromised the safety of students by generating school-based incidents reports that in turn have been used as the basis to deport undocumented students; *and*
- WHEREAS,** According to the ACLU, across the country there are 1.7 million students in schools with police but without counselors, 3 million students in schools with police but without nurses, 6 million students in schools with police but without a school psychologist, and 10 million students in schools with police but without a social worker; *and*
- WHEREAS,** In schools, that use restorative justice practices to empower students to resolve conflicts on their own and in small groups with counselors and social workers as opposed to police officers, has contributed to a drastic reduction in suspension and expulsion rates, with students reporting feeling happier and safer; *and*
- WHEREAS,** These school-based incident reports not only creates a dangerous school-to-deportation pipeline but reinforces negative approaches to discipline that disrupts what is supposed to be a learning environment; and,
- WHEREAS,** The Boston City Council has a moral obligation to protect and support the development of our students and Boston School Police officers can play a role in supporting restorative justice with the support of a leadership that values cultural competency, doing so in a way that uplifts the history of systemic inequities in our education and policing systems; ***NOW THEREFORE BE IT***
- ORDERED,**

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss pathways to implement restorative justice practices in our Boston Public Schools as well as the current role of the Boston Police Department in our schools. Representatives from Boston Public Schools, particularly the Departments of Safety Services (Boston Public School Police Officers) and Behavioral Health Services, school principals, students, teachers, parents, as well as advocacy organizations such as NAACP Boston, ACLU of Massachusetts, Lawyers for Civil Rights, mental health advocates, and members of the public are encouraged to attend and testify virtually.

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