

Offered by Councilor Andrea J. Campbell



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING TO EXPLORE PREPARATION FOR YOUTH EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES AMID AND POST THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

WHEREAS: The stay-at-home advisory to address the spread of COVID-19 has caused many businesses to temporarily close, institute work from home, and furlough or lay off employees; *and*

WHEREAS: While Boston has seen a significant decline in overall crime, in certain neighborhoods, including Dorchester and Mattapan, there has been an uptick in shootings and we continue to lose young lives to gun violence; *and*

WHEREAS: During what most would consider a quiet period, the Boston Police Department has reported 11 homicides and 44 shootings as of April 19, 2020, compared to 9 homicides and 43 shootings this time last year, with 2 homicides and 15 shootings occurring after Governor Baker’s stay-at-home announcement on March 23, 2020; *and*

WHEREAS: In 2017, a Federal Reserve Bank of Boston report entitled, “How Do Summer Youth Employment Programs Improve Criminal Justice Outcomes, and for Whom?,” found that youth summer job programs lead to significant declines in youth-involved crime; *and*

WHEREAS: The City of Boston’s Department of Youth Engagement and Employment reports that in 2019, 6,195 15-18 year olds registered for the SuccessLink program and 2,653 of those youth were hired; *and*

WHEREAS: Due to the coronavirus pandemic, the 2020 SuccessLink School Year Youth Employment program was suspended; *and*

WHEREAS: The opportunity for youth employment could be greatly diminished as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on the economy and normal business operations; *and*

WHEREAS: To intervene and prevent an increase in violence during this crisis, the City of Boston should ensure that youth employment opportunities are expanded and adjusted to meet the requirements of the stay-at-home advisory and any future health guidelines; *and*

WHEREAS: Potential youth employers will require support and technical assistance to repurpose their business, offer remote or online job opportunities, and other meaningful supports to our youth; *NOW THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED: That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to explore new models of delivering and expanding youth employment opportunities that comply with the stay-at-home advisory and future health guidelines in order to support our youth and prevent crime in the City of Boston, and that representatives from the City of Boston's Department of Youth Engagement and Employment and other relevant city and State departments, youth enrichment and employment organizations, and the public be invited to testify.

Filed on: April 29, 2020