

Offered by Councilors Breadon and Wu, Campbell, Flaherty, Essaibi-George, Edwards, O'Malley, Bok, Arroyo, Flynn, Mejia and Janey



CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING THE CHILDCARE CRISIS IN BOSTON

- WHEREAS,** Care work is the critical backbone of our economy and our workforce, making all other types of work possible, and women overall make up 92% and women of color make up 40% of Boston's childcare workforce; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Finding childcare is one of the central issues families face in the City of Boston, and Massachusetts is the second most expensive state for childcare in the U.S., with center-based infant care costing an average of \$20,913, according to the Economic Policy Institute; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** In February 2019, the City launched the Language, Disability, and Childcare Survey to assess how families access and experience care for children ages five and under, finding that the cost of childcare is the top concern for families in all neighborhoods of Boston, and women in particular report childcare as a challenge to entering or re-entering the workforce; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the number of childcare programs in Massachusetts decreased by nearly 25% in just four years, and Boston has lost 40% of its family childcare businesses in the last ten years; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** Currently there are 28 Exempt Emergency Childcare Centers operating in the City of Boston serving COVID-19 essential workers, and Governor Baker's Administration is moving forward with reopening amid the COVID-19 pandemic without clear and adequate support for childcare centers to reopen with proper protection for childcare workers or financial stability for childcare centers needing to reduce class sizes for proper physical distancing; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** The City of Boston developed and launched the Childcare Entrepreneur Fund Pilot Program to support family childcare entrepreneurs with the goal of reversing the trend of family child care providers closing in order to maintain the supply of available childcare seats for families; *and,*
- WHEREAS,** It is of the utmost importance that the City of Boston conduct due diligence to support childcare providers during and beyond the COVID-19 pandemic and commit to addressing racial and economic disparities due to the lack of access to care and an underpaid workforce.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDERED,

That the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to discuss the childcare crisis in Boston. Relevant administration officials, parents and caretakers, families, childcare providers, early education professionals, advocates, and interested members of the public shall be invited to attend remotely in the interest of public health amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

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