



Boston City Council

Committee on Labor, Youth Affairs & Human Rights

Felix G. Arroyo, Chair

December 10, 2010

Dear Councillors:

The Boston City Council's **Committee on Labor, Youth Affairs & Human Rights** held a hearing on Thursday, December 9, 2010 at 10:00 AM in the Christopher Iannella Chamber on the fifth floor of the Boston City Hall.

The Committee on Labor, Youth Affairs and Human Rights held a hearing to discuss Docket #0215: Resolution calling for the hiring of 300 street and youth workers in the City of Boston. This matter was sponsored by Councilor Charles C. Yancey and referred to the Committee on Wednesday, February 3, 2010. A public hearing was held on Thursday, December 9, 2010. Councilor Charles C. Yancey, member of the Committee, chaired the meeting. Chair Councilor Felix G. Arroyo could not attend due to his attendance at the funeral of Felita Oyola.

Members of the committee heard testimony from Edward Callahan and William Gross from the Boston Police Department. Councilors also heard testimony from Karen Connor from the City of Boston Budget Office and Donovan Walker, a resident of the city. Mr. Walker shared his 26 years of youth experience with the committee and testified that the increase of street workers will help many young people in the city. William Gross from the Boston Police Department testified that increasing street workers will be instrumental in fighting crime, but that all programs must work together to be more effective. Edward Callahan, Acting Bureau Chief Boston Police Department and Karen Connor from the City of Boston Budget Office stated that an increase in street workers is a good idea, and noted that the city plans to hire more than 162 police officers to fill and replace open positions on the Boston Police Department force.

As the Chair of the Committee on Labor, Youth Affairs & Human Rights to which the following was referred;

Having considered the same, I respectfully recommend that the matters ***ought to pass in New Draft.***

Felix G. Arroyo, Chair,
Committee on Labor, Youth Affairs & Human Rights

CITY OF BOSTON IN CITY COUNCIL

Offered by Councillor Charles C. Yancey

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR THE HIRING UP TO 300 STREET AND YOUTH WORKERS

- Whereas: The City of Boston is suffering from an unacceptable level of violence (73 homicides year-to-date), particularly among young people; and
- Whereas: The City of Boston has responded to this crisis in a variety of ways, including increasing police visibility, summer jobs, and youth programs; and
- Whereas: Too many young people drop out of school (as many as 1,500 per year), limiting their chances of experiencing a productive adulthood; and
- Whereas: The City of Boston currently employs 34 Youth Workers and 30 Street Workers; and
- Whereas: This number of Youth and Street Workers is inadequate to reach out to the significant number of youth at risk; and
- Whereas: The FY2011 budget for the Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) is \$21,674,450; and
- Whereas: The Boston Police Department's overall FY2011 budget is \$270,874,945; and
- Whereas: The approved Police Department's overtime budget of \$30,000,000 is more than \$8,325,550 above the BCYF budget; and
- Whereas: The effective use of Youth & Street Workers may reduce the need for excessive police overtime; and
- Whereas: Street and Youth Workers may serve as mentors to prevent violence and to encourage productive lifestyles; Be It Therefore
- Resolved: That the City of Boston hire up to 300 Youth and Street workers for FY2013

**In City Council
December 15, 2010**