

City of Boston In City Council

Resolution In Support of the Development of a CETAWPA Model Program To Resolve Our National Unemployment Crisis

By
Councillors Chuck Turner and Charles C. Yancey

June 3, 2009

- WHEREAS, the City of Boston like so many other communities in the Metro Area, across the Commonwealth and throughout the nation even before the recession (December 2007) had large numbers of residents who were unemployed but not counted because they either were not receiving benefits or were not identified as "looking" in the monthly Census Survey; and
- Whereas, approximately 5 million workers have been laid off nationwide since the recession officially began in December 2007; and
- Whereas, 651 thousand workers lost their jobs in February 2009 and 663 thousand workers lost their jobs in March 2009 nationwide; and
- Whereas, Numbers USA estimated in December 2008, that there were 60 million jobless people nationwide including those collecting benefits as well as those not counted; and
- Whereas, federal administration predicts that the stimulus plan will create and save between 3 and 4 million jobs; and
- Whereas, unemployment in Massachusetts is at 8%; and
- Whereas, unemployment in Boston has risen during the last year from 5.5% to 7.1%; and
- Whereas, the rising unemployment in Boston negatively impacts all sectors of life in our City, particularly for our youth; and
- Whereas, Neil Sullivan, Executive Director of the Private Industry Council said at a Boston City Council hearing in November 2007 that he thought that only a program similar to the Certified Employment and Training Program (CETA) of the 1970's could relieve the crisis of youth unemployment in Boston; Therefore Be It
- Resolved, that the Boston City Council urge the Massachusetts delegation to work with the Obama Administration and their fellow legislators to develop a major jobs program modeled after the 1976 federal CETA program as well as the Works Progress Administration Program of the Roosevelt Administration; and Be It Further
- Resolved, that the Boston City Council urge local elected officials throughout the metropolitan region and the Commonwealth to develop similar resolutions in order to develop the type of political strength necessary to galvanize the political action which can relieve this crisis.