

# City of Boston In City Council

## HEARING ORDER

Regarding Joint Strategies Conducted by the  
Boston Public Health Commission and Boston Public School for  
Trauma Counseling of Students and School Personnel

By

Councillors Chuck Turner and Ayanna Pressley, *Yancey, Arroyo, Ross,  
Ciommo, LaMattina, Feeney, Consalvo*

June 9, 2010

Whereas, more than one quarter of youth surveyed by the Boston Youth Survey in 2006 have been exposed to violence at school (35%) or on the way to school (25%); and

Whereas, those surveyed who were exposed to violence were less likely to succeed in school and more likely to perpetrate violence; and

Whereas, the same survey revealed that youth who said they had a supportive adult at school were less likely to bring a weapon to school, less likely to be truant, and more likely to perform well academically; and

Whereas, the emotional impact and the resulting trauma from such incidents, which occur in or around a school that is in session will continue far after initial crises; and

Whereas, the Boston Public Schools and the Boston Public Health Commission have established a strategy for jointly providing counseling and trauma reduction support during incidents that take place in or around schools when they are in session; and

Whereas, their strategy is designed to bring assistance to students and school personnel in the midst of such incidents; and

Whereas, the City has a responsibility to provide ongoing support to those students and school personnel impacted by such incidents. Therefore Be It

Ordered, that the appropriate committee of the Boston City Council hold a hearing to discuss both their joint strategy for providing counseling support for school personnel and ~~students~~ for crises happening in or around schools and community centers located in schools, as well as strategies for providing ongoing counseling and trauma reduction services to students and staff; and that representatives from the Boston Public Schools, the Boston Public Health Commission, other interested parties be invited to testify.