

Offered by:

COUNCILOR FELIX G. ARROYO AND JOHN R. CONNOLLY, Yancey, Pressley, Linahan, LaMattina, Tobin, Turner, Koss



**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**ORDER FOR A HEARING REGARDING
MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP OF BOSTON PUBLIC
SCHOOL BUILDINGS**

WHEREAS, The Fiscal Year 2011 budget calls for the layoffs of 83 Boston Public School full-time custodians, a total of a 25% reduction from the current amount of Boston Public School full-time custodians and a total proposed loss of approximately 172,000 employee hours; and

WHEREAS, Even prior to these proposed layoffs, custodian level were already fifty full-time positions below their highest level and 10 buildings have been added to the BPS system since 1992, forcing custodians to already be overextended; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Public School custodians are often the first line of defense against health issues facing students including, during the H1N1 and MRSA (methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus) outbreaks, custodians were in the lead sterilizing buildings; and

WHEREAS, Cleaning the accumulation of mold by Boston Public School custodians has always been a key duty, but especially brought more into focus by the recent heavy rains of March and April which caused severe leaks in some buildings; and

WHEREAS, The reduction in maintenance and upkeep as a result of the reduction in full-time custodian positions could create long-term costs in building repairs due to a potentially swifter deterioration of Boston Public School buildings; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Public School Department has stated that they have "strategically drawn up a plan" to ensure the maintenance and upkeep of Boston Public School buildings despite these proposed layoffs; and

WHEREAS, The Boston Public School Department has not been provided the opportunity to present this plan for fully addressing maintenance and upkeep of the Boston Public School buildings subsequent to these proposed layoffs and ensuring the timely and safe opening of Boston Public Schools for the 2010-2011 school year. *THEREFORE BE IT*

ORDERED, That the appropriate committees of the Boston City Council holds a hearing to learn of plans for fully addressing maintenance and upkeep of the Boston Public School buildings subsequent to these proposed layoffs and ensuring the timely and safe opening of Boston Public Schools for the 2010-2011 school year. Representatives from the Boston Public School Department and other interested parties are invited to testify.

Filed on: June 15, 2010

2010 JUN 15 10:00 AM
CITY OF BOSTON
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