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 Lannello 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 Councillor Charles C. Yancey and referred to the Committee on Wednesday, February 3, 2010. A public hearing was held on Thursday, December 9, 2010. Councillor Charles C. Yancey, member of the Committee, chaired the meeting. Chair Councillor 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. Councillors 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