



**City of Boston
In City Council**

Hearing Order On Civics Curriculum in Boston Public Schools

**By Councillors Chuck Turner, Felix D. Arroyo, Charles C. Yancey and John Tobin ,
Murphy, Consalvo, Yoon, LaMattina, McDermott, Ross, Feeney, Flaherty** *April 25, 2007*

- Whereas, civics curriculum has not been a requirement in Boston Public High Schools since 1970; and
- Whereas, research shows that residents are not as involved now as they were a generation ago, when civics was a requirement; and
- Whereas, the voting population of young adults is even lower than the general average; and
- Whereas, the development of a civics curriculum, required in at least the junior and senior year, will reinforce the learning acquired through the system wide eighth grade civics class; and
- Whereas, such a curriculum could include opportunities for students to develop projects focused on neighborhood improvement; and
- Whereas, it is as important for the school system to focus on the development of a commitment to civic responsibility on the part of its students, as it is to help them prepare to master the MCAS. Therefore be it
- Ordered, that the appropriate committee invites the Superintendent, a representative from the Mayor’s Office, a representative from Governor Deval Patrick’s Civics Engagement Department, Boston Student Advisory Council (BSAC), Massachusetts Board of Education as well as Boston Public School students, parents, and the general public to discuss the value and feasibility of developing required courses in the junior and senior year focused on civic participation broadly defined.