

RESOLUTION

NO. R-21-63

CITY HALL: February 11, 2021

BY: COUNCILMEMBER GISLESON PALMER

SECONDED BY: COUNCILMEMBER GIARRUSSO

Resolution supporting the development and implementation of the Ten-Year Citywide Youth Master Plan

WHEREAS, Louisiana ranks 50th among all states, in terms of overall childhood wellbeing; and

WHEREAS, Thirty-seven percent of New Orleans children, primarily children of color, live in poverty; and

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated and worsened racial and ethnic disparities; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans's legacy of discrimination has played a significant role in how our city has been shaped, often cutting off children, youth, and their families from the opportunities and resources they need to thrive; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans's historically siloed approaches to supporting young people and their families are often costly, overly punitive, and blind to the unique developmental stages, cultural needs, and lived experiences of New Orleans children and youth; and

WHEREAS, Youth have a right to live in resilient communities and have consistent ease of access to clean, safe affordable spaces in which to play, learn, explore, exercise, and build community; and

WHEREAS, Youth have a right to grow up in environments that are safe and free from harm; and

WHEREAS, Youth and their families have a right to earn living wages in positive work environments, and the right to an awareness of and access to the knowledge, skills, and abilities needed to succeed in diverse, high-quality career pathways; and

WHEREAS, Youth have a right to access equitable learning opportunities and positive learning environments – both in and out of school time – with developmentally appropriate youth-centered curricula; and

WHEREAS, Youth have a right to positive, healthy relationships with adults and reliable access to physical and mental healthcare; and

WHEREAS, Youth have a right to develop their own voices and be actively and equitably engaged to use their voices in decision-making and advocacy spaces and places; and

WHEREAS, New Orleans is a city where the full self-expression, leadership, creativity, and culture of all children and youth comes together to create a true community where everyone succeeds; and

WHEREAS, The City promotes a Positive Youth Development framework that engages youth within their communities in a manner that is productive and constructive, recognizes and enhances youth strengths, and promotes positive outcomes for young people; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Youth and Families, established in accordance with Executive Order LC 18-02 from Mayor LaToya Cantrell, is tasked with the creation of a unified strategic plan for youth and families in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, The New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board, established in accordance with La. R.S. 46:1941.8 and City Code Section 2-261, is tasked with the creation of a comprehensive plan for children and youth services in New Orleans; and

WHEREAS, the New Orleans Youth Alliance, the youth development intermediary for the Greater New Orleans area, is tasked with cultivating a system of high-quality, well-resourced youth development organizations to ensure that all young people are safe, secure, and thriving;
NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, That the New Orleans City Council hereby supports the development and implementation of a citywide Youth Master Plan; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council supports the Office of Youth and Families, in partnership with New Orleans Children and Youth Planning Board and the New Orleans Youth Alliance, engaging in the development and implementation of the Youth Master Plan to improve childhood wellbeing in the City of New Orleans; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That it is in the interest of the City and the City Council to invest in and promote the coordination and collaboration of children and youth services across multiple sectors and demographics, applying a Positive Youth Development framework; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council will review the Youth Master Plan and make its best efforts to implement the action strategies contained within the plan; and

FURTHER RESOLVED, That the City Council will make its best efforts to demonstrate support for the Youth Master Plan by ensuring any initiatives that seek to support and engage youth are delivered from a place of partnership, respect, and power sharing.

THE FOREGOING RESOLUTION WAS READ IN FULL, THE ROLL WAS CALLED ON THE ADOPTION THEREOF, THE RESULT WAS AS FOLLOWS:

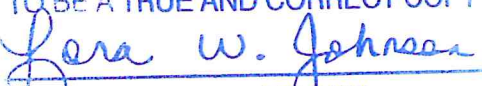
YEAS: Banks, Brossett, Giarrusso, Gisleson Palmer, Glapion, Moreno, Nguyen - 7

NAYS: 0

ABSENT: 0

AND THE RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED.

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THE FOREGOING IS CERTIFIED
TO BE A TRUE AND CORRECT COPY

CLERK OF COUNCIL