



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice
Henry Santana, Chair

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ◊ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ◊ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

April 13, 2026

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0320, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Seventy-Seven Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$577,500.00) in the form of a grant, the FY25 Port Security Grant Program, awarded by United States Department of Homeland Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant would fund the purchase of a new 31' LifeProof boat, the replacement of engines on the 31' Safeboat and 38' Safeboat, and finally, the re-collaring of the Kvichak patrol boat, and ice rescue training.

Docket #0759, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Ten Million Nine Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand One Hundred Forty Dollars and Seven Cents (\$10,925,140.07) in the form of a grant, FY26 Counter-Unmanned Aircraft Systems (C-UAS) Grant Program, awarded by United States Department of Homeland Security, passed through the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, to be administered by the Police Department.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and were referred to the Committee on February 11, 2026 (Docket # 0320) and on March 4, 2026 (Docket #0759).

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0320 authorizes acceptance and expenditure of a grant that would fund the purchase of a new 31' LifeProof boat, the replacement of engines on the 31' Safeboat and 38' Safeboat, the re-collaring of the Kvichak patrol boat, and ice rescue training.

Docket #0759 authorizes acceptance and expenditure of a grant that would fund increasing the ability of the Boston Police Department (BPD) to detect, identify, track, and monitor unmanned aircraft systems within the City of Boston.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Monday, April 13, 2026 to discuss Dockets #0320 and #0759, as well as Docket #0476, regarding all grants administered by BPD. The following panelists testified on behalf of the Administration: Sean Martin, Deputy Superintendent, Bureau of Field Services, Lanita Cullinane, Bureau Chief, Bureau of Intelligence and Analysis, Ryan Walsh, Director, Boston Regional Intelligence Center, and Maria Cheevers, Director, Office of Research and Development.



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The Boston Police Department presented the committee with a detailed breakdown and overview of how the funds will be allocated within the department. It emphasized the essential role this funding plays in maintaining safety and security during large-scale public events across the City of Boston. The funds will be used to support key initiatives, including training, security operations at Boston Harbor ports, and upgrades to tracking and monitoring equipment for unmanned aircraft systems.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At this time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters **OUGHT TO PASS**.

Henry a. Santana

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