



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

October 8, 2024

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #0911 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY24 Earmark for Fairmount Housing Development, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the support of Police overtime for visible patrols in the Fairmount Development.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on June 5, 2024.

Docket #1166 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Million One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$4,125,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY25 Public Safety Answering Point Support and Incentive Grant, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund costs associated with providing Enhanced 911 services.

Docket #1168 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY24 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response.

Docket #1170 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Hundred Forty-Five Thousand Eight Hundred Sixty-Five Dollars and Seventy-Seven Cents (\$445,865.77) in the form of the grant for the FY25 State 911 Training Grant, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the training and certification of Enhanced 911 telecommunications staff.

Docket #1175 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eighty-Seven Thousand Four Hundred Twenty-Seven Dollars (\$87,427.00) in the form of a grant, for the United States Attorney's Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) Initiative grant, awarded by the United States Attorney's Office passed through the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, to be administered by the Boston Police Department. The grant will fund the purchase of needed equipment, software, and other technology items considered vital for preventing or reducing violent crime.

Docket #1177 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars (\$10,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY23 National Violent Death



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Reporting System, awarded by the MA Department of Public Health to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund data collection by the Bureau of Investigative Services and the Drug Control Unit.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on August 7, 2024.

Docket #1286 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eleven Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$11,200.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Boston Police Department. The grant will fund to support enrollment in the Certificate of Intensive Training in Motivational Interviewing for the SSYI Boston Case Management Team.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on August 28, 2024.

Docket #1432 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY24 Police Reform and Equitable Justice Grant Program, awarded by the Target Corporation to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the Youth and Police Initiative (YPI), which provides police with the skills and tools necessary to understand and deal with troubled youth and gives troubled youth new ways to understand, perceive and deal with police authority.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on September 25, 2024.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0911 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$10,000 in the form of a grant, for the FY24 Earmark for Fairmount Housing Development, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the support of Police overtime for visible patrols in the Fairmount Development.

Docket #1166 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$4,125,000 in the form of a grant, for the FY25 Public Safety Answering Point Support and Incentive Grant, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund costs associated with providing Enhanced 911 services.

Docket #1168 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$850,000 in the form of a grant for the FY24 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response.

Docket #1170 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$445,865.77 in the form of the grant for the FY25 State 911 Training Grant, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the training and certification of Enhanced 911 telecommunications staff.



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Docket #1175 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$87,427 in the form of a grant, for the United States Attorney's Project Safe Neighborhood (PSN) Initiative grant, awarded by the United States Attorney's Office passed through the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, to be administered by the Boston Police Department. The grant will fund the purchase of needed equipment, software, and other technology items considered vital for preventing or reducing violent crime.

Docket #1177 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$10,000 in the form of a grant for the FY23 National Violent Death Reporting System, awarded by the MA Department of Public Health to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund data collection by the Bureau of Investigative Services and the Drug Control Unit.

Docket #1286 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$11,200 in the form of a grant, for the FY23 Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Boston Police Department. The grant will fund to support enrollment in the Certificate of Intensive Training in Motivational Interviewing for the SSIYI Boston Case Management Team.

Docket #1432 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of \$175,000 in the form of a grant, for the FY24 Police Reform and Equitable Justice Grant Program, awarded by the Target Corporation to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the Youth and Police Initiative (YPI), which provides police with the skills and tools necessary to understand and deal with troubled youth and gives troubled youth new ways to understand, perceive and deal with police authority.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Tuesday, October 8, 2024, to discuss Dockets #0911, #1166, #1168, #1170, #1175, #1177, #1286, and #1432 consisting of various public safety grants. The Committee was joined by Ryan Walsh, Director of the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, Lanita Cullinane, Superintendent of Bureau of Field Services; Jay Paris, Founder of the Youth Police Initiative; Shawn Romanowski, Director of Telecommunications; Philip Bissonnette, Sergeant Detective at Fugitive Apprehension Unit; Frank DeLuca, Program Coordinator at Safe and Successful Youth Initiative; Carmen Curry, Deputy Superintendent of Operations Division; Christopher Markunas, Director of Operations Division - E911; Lieutenant Detective Daniel Duff, Commander of the Homicide Unit; and Christopher Hamilton, Captain of E-18.

Director Walsh discussed Docket #1168, stating that this grant is a continuation of funding that was also approved last year and would mostly be used toward personnel costs to enhance different aspects of the office. He added that BRIC has been receiving this grant since around 2017, and that it would fund about eight positions.

Superintendent Cullinane and Mr. Paris discussed Docket #1432, stating that this grant would fund the Youth and Police Initiative — a program that assists in working with youth to break down stereotypes and delve into deeper discussions about the kind of challenges youth and police are facing. Through the Youth and Police Initiative, BPD collaborates with about 150 young people through a two-week interactive scenario-based afterschool program and about 75 police officers who also receive training through this



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program. The Youth and Police Initiative targets youth who are impacted by gang violence, food insecurity, housing instability, and other risk factors.

Mr. DeLuca discussed Docket #1286 stating that this grant will help fund the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative — a program that works with 17-24 year old young adults at risk, typically perpetrators or victims of gun or street violence. The Safe and Successful Youth Initiative collaborates with the Boston Public Health Commission to provide a combined public health and public safety approach and introduces participants to healthy lifestyles. Specifically, this grant would support enrollment in the Certificate of Intensive Training in Motivational Interviewing for the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Boston Case Management Team.

Superintendent Cullinane discussed Docket #1175, stating that this grant would help fund the purchase of surveillance cameras to operate within BPD's existing camera network. These cameras would be placed in the top three highest violent crime police districts, which are Areas B-2, B-3, and C-11. She stated that these cameras will help prevent property and violent crimes, and investigate crimes that have already taken place. This grant will also fund tactical protective shields for police districts to assist with de-escalation skills and techniques. Lastly, this grant will provide funding to the Fugitive Apprehension Unit, which is in need of software database subscriptions, night vision equipment, and other equipment like iPads and body armor upgrades.

Director Markunas and Deputy Superintendent Curry discussed Dockets #1166 and #1170 which are grants that would help fund all aspects the 911 call center and operations. These grants will also provide funding for the Boston Fire Department's Fire Alarm Division and Dispatch Center, and Boston Emergency Medical Services Call Center. Docket #1166 is a Support Incentive Grant awarded by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Docket #1170 would provide funding for training programs for 911 call takers and dispatchers in all three emergency operations centers in the City of Boston.

Lieutenant Detective Duff discussed Docket #1177, and stated that this grant is awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to fund BPD's work with the National Violent Death Reporting System. He stated that BPD meets with the federal agency once a year to review and analyze violent crime statistics. This data is then used by the Centers for Disease Control to be compiled on a national level.

Captain Hamilton discussed Docket #0911, and stated that this grant is awarded by the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to fund direct patrols within the Fairmount neighborhood of Hyde Park. He stated that these funds are intended to provide additional police patrols of the Fairmount Housing Development to monitor, intervene, and suppress violent crime.

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**.



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