



Boston City Council

Erin J. Murphy

Councilor At-Large

Councilor Murphy's Statement on Officer-Involved Shooting in Roxbury

My thoughts are first with the woman who was violently assaulted and carjacked. She was punched in the face, dragged from her vehicle, and left in the street. That is terrifying, and it is something no one in our city should ever have to experience. Too often, the victims of violent crime are an afterthought in these conversations, and that should never be the case.

A Boston police officer responded to that call for help, as they do every day, not knowing what they are walking into. This was a dangerous, fast-moving situation involving a violent crime in progress, not a controlled or predictable encounter.

A life was lost, and that is always serious. But we also have to be honest about the full context. Public reporting shows this individual had a long criminal history, multiple open cases, repeated violations, and was out on bail at the time of this incident. That matters. It matters for public safety, and it matters when we talk about what happened that night. Ignoring those facts does not serve the public, and it does not serve justice.

Officer Nicholas O'Malley has served this city with an excellent record and is widely regarded as a dedicated officer. From everything we know, he was doing the job we ask our police officers to do, responding to a dangerous situation to protect others.

I want to be clear about something. None of us were there in that moment, and none of us had to make the kind of split-second decisions that come with a dangerous, fast-moving situation like this. I am not a prosecutor and I do not have access to all of the evidence, and this case should move through the legal process as it should. I do support the release of body camera footage so the public can better understand what happened, but even with video and hindsight, we should be careful not to assume we would have acted differently. Transparency matters, but it does not replace the reality of what officers face in real time.

My thoughts are also with Officer O'Malley's family. His wife, his young child, and his newborn are now living through something incredibly difficult. They deserve compassion as this process unfolds.

We can support accountability and due process while also standing with the victims of violent crime and recognizing the difficult and dangerous work our officers do every day. Those things are not in conflict.