



Boston City Council  
**Erin J. Murphy**  
Councilor At-Large



Boston City Council  
**ED FLYNN**  
Councilor - District 2

August 18, 2025

Commissioner Michael A. Cox  
Boston Police Department

Dear Commissioner Cox,

Last night's violence at Franklin Park, combined with the breakdown of the Boston Police Department's radio system, demands immediate attention and accountability. While officers were working to keep the crowd safe following the Dominican Festival, five people were shot. At the same time, the department's main radio channel failed for nearly 30 minutes, forcing officers to respond to an active shooting without reliable communication tools.

As City Councilors, we are deeply concerned that public safety systems failed at such a critical moment. Just last week, I chaired a Council hearing on the outdated EMS phone system and the urgent need to upgrade Boston's public safety infrastructure. These failures highlight the broader problem of underinvestment in essential tools that our first responders need to do their jobs safely and effectively.

We respectfully request that the Boston Police Department conduct a full investigation into what caused the radio system breakdown, how it affected the response, and the steps being taken to ensure this does not happen again. We also ask that the findings be reported back to the Council and the public.

Boston officers deserve the tools and support they need to protect our neighborhoods, and our residents deserve the assurance that public safety systems will not fail in moments of crisis.

Sincerely,

Erin J. Murphy  
Boston City Councilor, At-Large

Ed Flynn  
Boston City Councilor, District 2