



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

June 5, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #0394, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend in the amount of One Million Seven Hundred Thirty-Five Thousand One Hundred Seven Dollars and Thirty-Five Cents (\$1,735,107.39) in the form of a grant, for the FY25 Senator Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative Grant awarded by the Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund regional and multi-disciplinary approaches to combat gang violence through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution, and reintegration programs.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Wu and was referred to the Committee on February 5, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0394, This public safety grant awarded by the Massachusetts Office of Public Safety and Security will be administered by the Boston Police Department to address gang violence. This funding will support collaborative and coordinated efforts among regional and local law enforcement and other key stakeholders to combat gang related activities through prevention, intervention, enforcement, and community engagement strategies.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Thursday, June 5, 2025. The purpose of the hearing is to give the Committee an opportunity to hear from potential grant recipients who participate in the program, and would receive funds should the order to accept and expend this grant be approved by the Council. Each representative from a community organization spoke on their mission and work emphasizing the importance of this grant in providing critical support to at-risk youths within the community.

According to the grant information and breakdown presented by DeMon Bills, Project Coordinator for Senator Charles E. Shannon Community Safety Initiative within the Boston Police Department, last year's FY24 Shannon Grant, totaling \$1,705,475.12, provided funding to the following partner organizations:

ABCD, Boston Centers for Youth and Families, Boston Medical Center's Violence Intervention Advocacy Program (VIAP), Boston Police Department, Boston Public Health Commission, Fathers' Uplift, Freedom House, Future Chefs, Hyde Square Task Force, Justice Resource Institute, Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, Maverick Landing, More Than Words, Mothers for Justice & Equality, Project RIGHT Inc., Sportsmen's Tennis & Enrichment Center, St. Stephen's Youth Programs, The Center for Teen Empowerment, YOU Boston, YouthBuild, YouthConnect, and the Boys & Girls Club of Boston.



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Testimony was provided by students who shared their perspectives on how the funds could be best utilized to better serve at-risk youth in the City. This was followed by testimony from representatives of each organization, who spoke about their respective use of the funding.

The grant information and funding breakdown for FY25 are as follows:

Freedom House - \$350,000. Freedom House will offer six different college classes for students and the community, serving up to 120 people. 90 of these classes will be filled with students that are in high-risk situations. Freedom House will also provide 20 jobs to students with significant economic challenges.

Maverick Landing Community Services (MLCS) - \$35,000. Case Management for youth and families in East Boston. Neighborhood Resources, Safety Task Force Meetings, Youth Task Force and Police Dialogues. MLCS is reaching and engaging some of the most deeply underserved youth in East Boston.

Roca - \$35,000. Roca will utilize Shannon CSI grant funding to complete the intervention portion of its Social intervention and Prevention Program in East Boston. Funding will specifically support intensive street outreach and case management for at least 25 high-risk-gang involved young men in East Boston, with the goal of reducing violence and incarcerations.

Veronica Robles Cultural Center - \$35,000. VROCC provides youth leadership, arts education, employment and job training to help keep immigrant youth from East Boston from getting involved in activity. It employs LatinX immigrant youth leaders who earn a stipend as they learn to prepare, market and sell traditional Mexican food at farmer's markets.

The Center for Teen Empowerment (TE) - \$35,000. Teen Empowerment employs 50-60 youth to work approximately 10-12 hours per week to organize violence prevention initiatives for their peers and community members. TE also provides one-on-one mental health services and referrals.

Young Man With A Plan (YMWP) - \$30,000. YMWP delivers holistic mentoring that helps over 250 at-risk young Black and Latino men in Boston make academic and social-emotional gains and access sustainable futures.

Youth Guidance-BAM/WOW - \$35,000. Youth Guidance Boston works within the schools of Boston Public Schools (BPS) to heal those directly and indirectly affected by violence through Becoming A Man (BAM) and Working on Womanhood (WOW), school-based social emotional learning programs that target students in grades 6-12.

Sportsmen's Tennis Enrichment Center - \$35,000. Sportsmen's Tennis Enrichment Center's Volley Against Violence (VAV), a partnership between the Boston Police Department that works to engage inner city youths in tennis, breaking down barriers and bringing diverse groups of youth from different neighborhoods together.

Madison Park Development Corporation (MPDC) - \$40,000. MPDC's Soheil Turner Youth Leadership Institute provides targeted, year-round programming through comprehensive, paid youth workforce development and leadership activities.



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YouthConnect - \$100,000. Youth Connect delivers a Social Intervention and prevention program, offering specialized services to youth and families delivered through licensed social workers in each Police District and in School Police offices.

Apprentice Learning - \$35,000. Apprentice Learning is integrated into school beginning in seventh grade, leading to a workplace-based apprenticeship in eighth grade and to paid summer internship opportunities and job referrals for rising 9th grade students.

Boston Medical Center - VIAP-\$100,000. VIAP provides violence intervention outreach to direct victims of violence. It provides direct services to all receptive clients including redirection, relocation, and job and life skills. It also provides victims and families with linkages to BMC's behavioral, medical, mental health, and substance abuse services.

Boston Centers for Youth and Families (BCYF) - \$72,800.00. Boston Centers for Youth and Families Girls Leadership Corps provide youth jobs to young women each summer and 20 positions for Community sites to distribute during the summer when jobs are paramount to the success of young people.

Youth Build Boston (YBB) - \$35,000. Youth Build Boston provides educational and vocational programs for at-risk opportunity youth primarily from Dorchester, Roxbury, and Mattapan. YBB's programs offer a pathway to sustainability careers in the construction and design industry.

Boston Housing Authority (BHA) - \$61,000. The credible messenger program will employ mentors to provide twice weekly group mentoring, ad hoc individual mentoring, and case management to 35 youth between 12 to 18 years of age who are vulnerable and victims of violence at the BHA's Mildred C. Hailey and Franklin Field Development.

Mothers for Justice and Equality (MJE) - \$35,000. MJE participants obtain sustainable employment and become a part of the solution they engage in MJE's community action initiative. MJE provides gun violence prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery services to young adults both in the community and in prison.

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office - \$60,000. The JAR Program provides system-involved youth with a pathway out of traditional juvenile court processes and into community-based rehabilitation services.

Youth Options Unlimited - \$82,793.20. YOU Boston offers a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach to serving court-involved and/or gang affiliated youth. Components include intensive case management, development of an individual service plan, academic support, transitional employment, and job training.

The following organizations also provided written testimony in support of approval of this grant, and shared information about their planned usage of the funds. During the hearing, it was explained that these organizations would receive the following funding should this grant be approved by the Council:



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Hyde Park Task Force - \$35,000. Hyde Park Jovenes en Accion/Youth in Action program provides a safe and accessible environment for youths grades 8 through 12 to engage in Afro-Latin arts training , academic enrichment and mentoring, civic engagement and youth organizing, and socio and emotional mental health support.

St. Stephens Youth Program (SSYP) - \$30,000. SSYP is proposing the creation of B-PEACE, a community violence prevention initiative. The mission of the B-PEACE will create environmental conditions for the prosocial development of teens and young adults to disrupt the cycle of violence in Roxbury and South End neighborhoods of Boston.

Louise D. Brown Peace Institute (LDBPI) - \$35,000. The LDBPI will provide safe spaces for young people to learn how to transform their pain into power by becoming mentors to newer survivors counseling; peer grief support; mentoring; holistic healing workshops; and opportunities for civic engagement.

Future Chef's - \$30,000. Future Chefs works within the community of Grove Hall to provide opportunities for developing essential, transferable, and interpersonal skills to young people. Outside of the kitchen, Youth Service Specialists provide one-on-one coaching and mentoring to help young people post-secondary plans.

Urban Guild - \$30,000. The Guild provides Our Sanctuary Space as the safe container for the work of the following programs: Girls Reflecting Our Worlds, and ACT up with 5-0, a restorative arts program using art form to create an environment where police and youth are able to overcome trauma through artistic creativity.

Project Right - \$35,000. Project Right Inc. offers an outreach worker for the Grove Hall/Roxbury neighborhood providing violence prevention and intervention to youth. The outreach worker will target forty youth and assess needs, identify obstacles and strengths and refer them to appropriate intervention services.

Father Uplift - \$30,000. Fathers' Uplift works in the communities of Dorchester, Roxbury, Mattapan, and Hyde Park to help Black and Hispanic young men and youth to overcome barriers related to father absence, re-entry, substance abuse, gang activity, and other challenges in the community.

Additional written testimony was provided by DeMon Bills on behalf of the Boston Police Department as administrator of this grant, sharing information on an additional allocation of funds to the Boston Public Health Commission:

Boston Public Health Commission - \$50,000. BPHC's Village in Progress Youth Organizing Institute is a peer leadership program that explores the roots of violence and ways to address them in three neighborhoods of Boston most impacted by violence (Dorchester, Mattapan, and Roxbury).

In total, these above 27 partnership allocations total \$1,196,593.20.



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DeMon Bills provided further written information on the breakdown of the remaining grant funds, which would be allocated to programs provided by the Boston Police Department, as well as in funding of a Shannon Program Coordinator and Data Analyst role as follows:

BPD Drug Control Unit – \$43,000. To work in close partnership with the BPD's Youth Violence Strike Force, School police Unit, and other law enforcement partners beyond on normal tour of duty hours to focus on operations involving drug possession and distribution.

BPD Homicide Unit - \$43,000. At the direction of the District Attorney's Office, investigates and prepares cases on all homicides, suspicious deaths, fatal collisions, serious assaults, and battered children's cases in which the victim is in danger of death.

BPD Youth Violence Strike Force (YVSF) - \$43,000. Partners with the Probation Officers in 7 District Courts in Suffolk County and the Dept. of Youth Services to provide home visits to probationers, particularly those who are impact players or at high-risk for re-offending. The unit also carries out gang/youth violence reduction operations and strategies.

BPD Community Engagement Unit - \$43,000. To host police dialogues, anti-violence workshops, basketball league games, and overtime for the unit to fund flashlight walks, neighborhood watch community walks and Unit specific events. Including training, neighborhood dialogues, and conferences.

BPD Street Outreach Unit - \$43,000. To spend hours assisting Mental Health, Addiction and Recovery specialists in the areas of the city with concentrated amounts of street drug use, homelessness and recovery and mental health issues.

BPD School Police - \$43,000. Support school administration when called, to identify youth at risk of gang, and high-risk involvement; and community-based intervention for spill over school conflicts.

Shannon Program Coordinator and Data Analyst

In addition to providing Program Management and Coordination of Services, the Program Director acts as a liaison between Mayor's Office, Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, and Steering Committee members; collect monthly progress and statistical information to review progress; submit quarterly progress reports to EOPSS; participate in data collection; conform with technology requirements; conduct surveys and report out findings; facilitate partner coordination meetings; conduct site visits to partnering agencies; revision request, programmatic questions, reimbursements; and attend and participate in technical assistance meetings.

Calculation: Program Director = \$78,138.52

Fringe for Program Director = \$19,886.25

Data Analyst is housed at the Boston Police Department (BPD) Headquarters and is a member of the Violent Crime Analysis team which examines the involvement of individuals and groups in violent crime. include incident, arrest, and field interrogation data, as well as data from criminal history. Furthermore, the analyst liaisons with the BPD's Youth Violence Strike Force to enhance intelligence collection.



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Calculation: Data Analyst @ 20% = \$13,517.66

Fringe benefits for Data Analyst = \$3,440.24

City of Boston Administrative fee; this grant allows for a max of 10% on Direct Costs = \$157,437.00

Trainings and supplies for grant administration = \$10,000.00

Total grant amount = \$1,735,107.39

Committee Chair Recommended Action

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

Henry A. Santana

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