



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery

John FitzGerald, Chair

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

November 19, 2025

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery was referred the following docket for consideration:

Docket #1346, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Hundred Sixty-Two Thousand Eight Hundred Nine Dollars and Eighty-Six Cents (\$262,809.86) in the form of a grant, for the FY26 DMH CIT TTAC Grant, awarded by the MA Department of Mental Health to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the implementation of 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for officers under the umbrella of BPD Street Outreach Unit.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu, and was referred to the Committee on July 9, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Dockets #1346, is a grant awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Mental Health for FY26, to be administered by the Boston Police Department to fund costs relevant to the Crisis Intervention Team (CIT). Specifically, the grant will fund the implementation of 40-hour Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training for officers under the umbrella of BPD Street Outreach Unit.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a joint hearing with the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice on Tuesday, November 18, 2025, on Dockets #1346 and #1661-1662. The Committees heard testimony from representatives of the Boston Police Department, Jenna Savage, Deputy Director of the Office of Research and Development, and Lieutenant Peter Messina of the Street Outreach Unit, testifying on behalf of the Administration.

The Administration testified that the Docket #1346 will support the City's CIT program by funding core components necessary to deliver the 40-hour training curriculum used to prepare officers for mental-health-related encounters. It was explained that specifically, the grant will cover the full-time civilian training coordinator, supplies, equipment, instructional support, and logistical needs required to run each training session. The Administration described how the 40-hour training incorporates de-escalation skills, mental-health recognition, substance-use awareness, specialized modules such as veterans and older adults, and scenario-based exercises facilitated by professional actors. Councilors expressed interest in how many officers have completed the training, what portion of the department remains untrained, and how dispatch identifies officers with CIT certification. The Administration responded that nearly 300 officers have completed the program and that a voluntary identification system in dispatch allows CIT-trained officers to be assigned to mental-health-related calls. Councilors also asked how the Department measures the effectiveness of the training. The Administration stated that while the impact of the training is not easily measured through data, officer feedback consistently reflects improved field interactions and application of the skills learned.



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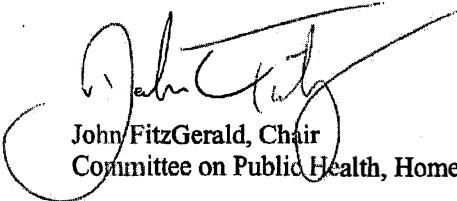
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Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery, 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**.



John FitzGerald, Chair
Committee on Public Health, Homelessness, and Recovery