



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety & Criminal Justice

Michael Flaherty, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

October 30, 2023

Dear Councilors:

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

Docket #1434, 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 FY24 Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department.

Docket #1511, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million One Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Seven Hundred Eighty-Nine Dollars and Nine cents (\$1,181,789.09) in the form of a grant, for the FY21 AFG Health & Wellness, awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency to be administered by the Fire Department.

Docket #1514, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Thirty-Three Thousand Two Hundred Dollars (\$533,200.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 Prosecuting Cold Cases using DNA, awarded by the United States Department of Justice to be administered by the Police Department.

Docket #1515, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Hundred Seventeen Thousand Eighty-Two Dollars (\$317,082.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 DNA Capacity Enhancement and Backlog Reduction Program, awarded by the United States Department of Justice to be administered by the Police Department.

Docket #1516, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Forty-Nine Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars and Sixty cents (\$49,173.60) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 Firefighter Safety Equipment Grant, awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department.

Docket #1517, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Twenty-Four Thousand Dollars (\$24,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY22 Port Security Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Homeland Security and to be administered by the Fire Department.

Docket #1518, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Sixteen Thousand Three Hundred Eighty-Seven Dollars (\$16,387.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 Port Security Grant Program, awarded by the United States Department of Homeland Security to be administered by the Police Department.



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Docket #1540, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million One Hundred Twenty-Four Thousand Five Hundred Sixty-Six Dollars (\$1,124,566.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY2023 Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant, and Substance Use Site-based Program (COSSUP) Grant, awarded by United States Department of Justice to be administered by the Police Department.

Docket #1541, Message and Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Hundred Eighty-One Thousand Nine Hundred Nineteen Dollars (\$481,919.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 Byrne Justice Assistance Grant - Local Allocation, awarded by United States Department Of Justice to be administered by the Police Department.

Docket #1542, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Hundred Forty-Six Thousand Four Hundred Six Dollars and Nine cents (\$446,406.09) in the form of a grant, for the FY24 State 911 Training Grant, awarded by MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department.

Docket #1544, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Seventy Thousand One Hundred Seventy-Two Dollars (\$70,172.00) in the form of a grant, Federal Byrne Justice Assistance Grant Reallocation, awarded by United States Department of Justice, passed through the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, to be administered by the Police Department.

These matters were sponsored by the Administration, and were referred to the Committee on September 13, 2023 (Docket #1434), September 27, 2023 (Dockets ##1511, 1514, 1515, 1516, 1517, 1518), and October 4, 2023 (Dockets #1540, 1541, 1542, 1544).

Summary of Legislation

Docket #1434: The grant would fund the costs associated with providing Enhanced 911 services.

Docket #1511: The grant will fund safety training and fitness equipment to support Firefighters health and wellness.

Docket #1514: The grant will fund an increase in the number of cases where suspect DNA was identified..

Docket #1515: The grant will fund two Criminalist positions, overtime, lab supplies equipment, and continuing education expenses and reduce backlog of DNA cases.

Docket #1516: The grant will fund the purchase of active shooter response gear, including ballistic vests and ballistic helmets.



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Docket #1517: The grant will fund a third-party training consultant to deliver eight (8) half-day (4 hour) sessions of Module 1 of the Harbor Incident Response Training.

Docket #1518: The grant will fund installation of two On-Demand Side Sonar Units onto Boston Police Department Harbor Patrol Unit vessels.

Docket #1540: The grant would fund and support pre- and post-arrest diversion of substance users to treatment in the area of Mass and Cass and across the city.

Docket #1541: The grant would fund a Domestic Violence Management Analyst at the Family Justice Center, a Hub & Center of Responsibility Coordinator, and a Technology Coordinator for multiple data collection, reporting and records management systems.

Docket #1542: The grant would fund the training and certification of Enhanced 911 telecommunications staff.

Docket #1544: The grant would fund Annual Boston Address Verification procedures mandated by the Massachusetts Sex Offender Registry Board.

A public hearing was held on all dockets on Monday, October 30, 2023. Kevin Coyne, Deputy Commissioner, Administration & Finance, Boston Fire Department (BFD); Joseph Shea, Director of Health, Safety, and Wellness, BFD; Christopher Bailey, Sergeant, Port Security - Harbor Patrol Unit, Boston Police Department (BPD); Julie James, Criminalist/DNA Technical Leader, Crime Lab, BPD; Nicholas Moore, Sergeant Detective, Homicide Unit, BPD; Maria Cheevers, Director, Research & Development, BPD; Jenna Savage, Deputy Director, Research & Development, BPD; Christopher Markunus, Director, Operations Division, BPD; and Carmen Curry, Deputy Superintendent, Operations Division, BPD, were present on behalf of the Administration and provided the committee with a breakdown and overview of how the above monies are planned to be used within the Boston Fire Department and the Boston Police Department.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Public Safety & Criminal Justice, submits a report recommending that these named dockets **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Michael Flaherty, Chair
Committee on Public Safety & Criminal Justice