



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

May 28, 2026

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #0969, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Twelve Million Five Hundred Seventy-Three Thousand Six Hundred Four Dollars (\$12,573,604.00) in the form of a grant, 2026 FIFA World Cup Grant Program, awarded by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, passed through the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security, to be administered by the Office of Emergency Preparedness. The grant would fund support to the safety and security needs of our Massachusetts state and local entities directly involved with providing services for the Boston 2026 World Cup event.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu, and was referred to the Committee on May 13, 2026.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0969 is a grant that would fund support for the safety and security needs of the state and local entities involved with providing services for the Boston 2026 World Cup event.

Information Received at Hearing

On Thursday, May 28, 2026, the Committee convened a hearing to consider Docket #0969. The following testified on behalf of the administration: Adrian Jordan, Chief of Emergency Management; Sean Martin, Assistant Bureau Chief of Field Services, Boston Police Department (BPD); Kevin Coyne, Deputy Commissioner of Administration & Finance, Boston Fire Department (BFD); Neal Mullane, Deputy, Office of Field Services, BFD; and Malik Canty, Director of Administration & Finance, Office of Emergency Management (OEM).

The panel outlined the planned use of the awarded funds, explaining that Boston received these resources through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), with grant administration managed by the state Executive Office of Public Safety and Security (EOPSS) Office of Grants and Research. They emphasized that the funding is intended to enhance public safety, strengthen emergency management capabilities, and support operational readiness in advance of the FIFA World Cup 2026.

As Boston prepares to host multiple large-scale events ranging from official matches to fan experiences and regional gatherings, the City anticipates a significant increase in public safety and emergency response needs. This funding is reimbursement-based and may be used only for allowable, pre-approved grant expenditures in accordance with FEMA, Department of Homeland Security (DHS), and Commonwealth requirements.

The grant does not create any long-term financial obligation for the City's operating budget and is intended to offset costs associated with hosting and securing FIFA World Cup related activities.



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Funding will primarily support the following operational areas:

- Overtime and backfill costs for public safety and supporting personnel, including Police, Fire, Emergency Medical Services, Emergency Management, and Transportation staff, associated with FIFA World Cup event operations, planning, coordination, training, and related preparedness activities;
- Emergency preparedness and operational coordination activities, including emergency operations center support, incident management planning, interoperable communications, and regional coordination efforts;
- Specialized training and exercises designed to prepare City departments and regional partners for large-scale event security, crowd management, and incident response operations;
- Equipment, technology, and operational support services necessary to enhance situational awareness, coordination, communications, and emergency response capabilities; and
- Planning and logistical support associated with transportation management, public information coordination, unified command operations, and multi-agency response efforts.

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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Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice