



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

July 2, 2026

Dear Councilors,

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

Dockets #0970, a hearing regarding the FY26 Senator Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative Grant

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

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0970 is an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the FY26 Senator Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative Grant in the amount of \$1,073,239.34. This grant was awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to be administered by the Boston Police Department. This grant would fund regional and multi-disciplinary approaches to combat gang violence through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution, and reintegration programs.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Thursday, July 2, 2026 to discuss Docket #0970. The Committee heard testimony from DeMon Bills, Project Coordinator of the Senator Charles E. Shannon Community Service Initiative for the Boston Police Department.

Mr. Bills stated that the Shannon Grant is in its twentieth year of operation, supporting Boston's comprehensive public safety strategy targeting gun, gang, and youth violence. Over the years this grant has funded about 250 different nonprofits across Boston. Currently, this grant will fund 17 nonprofits and City organizations - down for 28 from last year due to state-level funding cuts. He added that 16 of these organizations are led by women or people of color.

Mr. Bills stated that the program focuses on opportunities, social intervention, community mobilization, organizational development, and prevention strategies to bolster public safety. He emphasized the grants primacy in supporting public safety through youth services and discussed the crucial role of nonprofit partners as the “backbone” of the effort.

The Committee and panel also discussed various issues including the grant’s impact, crime trends, program metrics, selection criteria, and funding challenges.

The Committee heard testimony from a number of recipients of this grant which included representatives of the Center for Teen Empowerment, The Record Company, Youth Connect, Girls Leadership Initiative, and Project R.I.G.H.T. These organizations emphasized their collaboration with the police department, community outreach, prevention, education, mental health support, and employment/creative



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opportunities. Several stressed the importance of sustained, consistent funding to maintain services and expand outreach, especially amid funding cuts. Those providing testimony also noted program impacts on relationship-building between youth and law enforcement, and facilitating positive interactions that prevent escalation.

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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