



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

August 4, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #1261, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Hundred Fifty-One Thousand One Hundred Forty-Five Dollars (\$251,145.00) in the form of a grant, for the MA Innocence and Conviction Integrity Collaboration Grant, awarded by the United States Department of Justice, passed through the Committee for Public Counsel Services, to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the BPD Crime Lab staff time for the Massachusetts Innocence and Conviction Integrity Collaboration Project.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu, and was referred to the Committee on June 25, 2025.

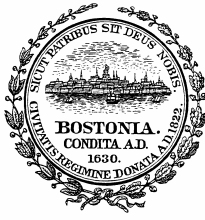
Summary of Legislation

Docket #1261 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the MA Innocence and Conviction Integrity Collaboration Grant in the amount of \$251,145, awarded by the United States Department of Justice and passed through the Committee for Public Counsel Services, to be administered by the Boston Police Department. This grant would fund the Boston Police Department Crime Lab staff time for the Massachusetts Innocence and Conviction Integrity Collaboration Project.

Information Received

The Committee received information from the Administration regarding Docket #1261 stating that this docket authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the MA Innocence and Conviction Integrity Collaboration Grant in the amount of \$251,145. This grant was awarded by the United States Department of Justice and passed through the Committee for Public Counsel Services, and will be administered by the Boston Police Department (BPD).

This grant will fund various measures to support the Massachusetts Committee for Public Council Service's (CPCS) Innocence Project, a criminal justice reform initiative in partnership with BPD's Crime Lab. This will include expanding CPCS' Working Group to include representatives of the BPD Crime Lab, fund an "Overtime Funding System" to defray overtime costs for evidence officers and crime lab personnel to catalogue DNA evidence in post-conviction cases, enable the BPD Crime Lab to conduct a system-wide review to identify all cases from 1980-2000 in which physical evidence is suitable for DNA testing which could yield information relevant to the identity of the perpetrator, facilitate collaboration of stakeholders and Working Group members to efficiently locate key physical evidence in cases currently under review, improve evidence documentation and storage in closed cases to ensure the availability for future forensic testing, and support ongoing efforts to disseminate and train stakeholders on best practices for evidence location, handling, and storage to ensure future access to forensic analysis.



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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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