



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice  
Michael Flaherty, Chair

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

October 4, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Committee held a hearing on September 29, 2023 regarding:

***Docket #1376, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in the form of a grant for Securing the Cities continuation grants, awarded by the United States Department of Homeland Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund continued enhancements for regional capabilities to detect, identify, report, and interdict nuclear and other radioactive materials out of regulatory control and provide regional training and exercise opportunities necessary to enhance capabilities,*** referred to the Committee on August 30, 2023; and,

***Docket #1476, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY20 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response,*** referred to the Committee on September 20, 2023; and,

***Docket #1477, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY21 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response,*** referred to the Committee on September 20, 2023; and,

***Docket #1478, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY22 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism,***

*anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response*, referred to the Committee on September 20, 2023; and,

*Docket #1479, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY23 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response*, referred to the Committee on September 20, 2023. Mayor Wu sponsored these dockets.

**Summary of Legislation as Filed:**

Docket #1376 provides \$1,000,000.00 for Securing the Cities continuation grants administered by the BPD to fund enhancements for regional capabilities to detect and identify nuclear and radioactive materials.

Dockets #1476-#1479 provides \$850,000.00 in the form of a grant for FY20 through FY23 for the Boston Regional Intelligence Center (“BRIC”) earmarks. This funding will be used to expand and upgrade technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response.

**Information Gathered at the Hearing:**

The Chair reviewed the dockets and summarized the use of the grant money. The Following individuals testified on behalf of the Administration: Commissioner Michael Cox Boston Police Department (“BPD”); Superintendent Luis Cruz, BPD; Deputy Superintendent Gerald Cahill, BPD; Ryan Walsh, Acting Director, Boston Regional Intelligence Center; Anthony Rizzo, Program Manager, Metro Boston Securing the Cities, BPD; and Nicole Taub, Chief of Staff, Commissioner Cox, BPD.

Commissioner Cox described the BRIC and its role in providing additional tools and capabilities to solve crimes and describe what the funding will be used for. Commissioner Cox explained that the BRIC is about collecting facts and data and used to help communities that are impacted by crime. Commissioner Cox explained that BRIC data is used to put officers and cameras in the right places and that it is essential to the department. The Commissioner emphasized the importance of data in analyzing trends and crime prevention. Acting Director Walsh explained that the funding will allow for additional manpower and analysts. Acting Director Walsh described the reforms and changes made to the gang database and reviewed Department Rule 335. BPD officials discussed the importance of educating the community about BRIC and described its outreach in the community.

Mr. Rizzo reviewed the Securing the Cities program and its purposes and goals. Mr. Rizzo explained that it is a five year federally funded program and reviewed the City’s partners in the program. Mr. Rizzo explained that the funding will fund radiation detection equipment. Mr. Rizzo described training exercises and collaboration with other towns. Councilors inquired about other agencies involved, training exercises and equipment.

With regard to the BRIC, Councilors inquired about the oversight and accountability and whether the BRIC has been audited for effectiveness. Councilors asked about the breakdown of employees at the BRIC including command staff and civilian staff, full time and part time

employees and demographics. Councilors inquired about the BRIC gang database and BPD policies and how the data is being used. Councilors also highlighted the success of BRIC in finding missing persons and solving crimes.

The Committee received written testimony both in support and against the BRIC grants and heard testimony from the public. Public testimony reflected concerns about the BRIC.

**Rationale and Recommended Action:**

Passage of Docket #1376 and the BRIC grants will ensure that the BPD has the necessary resources it needs to ensure the safety of the city.

By the Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice, to which the following was referred:

*Docket #1376, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Dollars (\$1,000,000.00) in the form of a grant for Securing the Cities continuation grants, awarded by the United States Department of Homeland Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund continued enhancements for regional capabilities to detect, identify, report, and interdict nuclear and other radioactive materials out of regulatory control and provide regional training and exercise opportunities necessary to enhance capabilities; and,*

*Docket #1476, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY20 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response; and,*

*Docket #1477, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY21 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response; and,*

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*Docket #1479, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Eight Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$850,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY23 Boston Regional Intelligence Center Earmark, awarded by the MA Executive Office of*

*Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund upgrading, expanding, and integrating technology and protocols related to anti-terrorism, anti-crime, anti-gang and emergency response,*

submits a report recommending that these dockets **ought to pass**.

For the Chair:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Flaherty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "M".

Michael Flaherty, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice