



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety & Criminal Justice

Henry A. Santana, Chair

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

November 17, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

***Docket #0978, an order to adopt Chapter 270 of the Acts of 2024 regarding local law enforcement continuity between the City of Boston and the Town of Dedham.***

This matter was sponsored by Councilor Enrique J. Pepén, and was referred to the Committee on April 30, 2025.

### ***Summary of Legislation***

***Docket #0978*** is an order to locally adopt state bill H.2299, a special act enacted by the Massachusetts Legislature to authorize cooperation between Boston Police Officers and Dedham Police Officers. This legislation would take effect upon acceptance by both the Boston City Council and the Dedham Select Board. By locally adopting this special act, the City of Boston and the Town of Dedham would establish clear authority for police cooperation—authorizing designated officers to exercise police powers within 500 yards across each other's municipal boundaries.

### ***Information Received at Hearing***

The Committee held a hearing on Thursday, November 6, 2025, to discuss Docket #0978. To discuss how this framework would operate in practice, the Committee heard testimony from a panel that included Robert W. Ciccolo Jr., Superintendent and Chief of the Bureau of Field Services for the Boston Police Department, and Michael J. D'Entremont, Chief of Police for the Dedham Police Department. State Representative Rob Consalvo, who sponsored and advanced the bill through the state legislature, also joined the hearing to explain the importance of its local adoption.

Superintendent Ciccolo Jr. of BPD, presented to the Council, explaining that this special act is modeled directly after the agreement between Boston, Brookline and Newton. He stated that the same challenges addressed there are also present along the Boston–Dedham border, which is becoming increasingly developed. He stated that this development creates both public safety and liability concerns, particularly where municipal boundaries weave around buildings or split backyards. In emergencies—especially at night—these boundary complications can delay response times and compromise public safety. The Superintendent further stated that BPD does not seek to routinely enforce laws in other municipalities, but this agreement provides more safety and reduces liability for those situations when cross-jurisdictional action becomes necessary. Chief D'Entremont of Dedham then briefly shared his perspective, noting that several buildings in Dedham extend into Boston, creating practical challenges for officers responding in those areas. He emphasized the need for both Boston and Dedham to adopt this act to streamline police operations and ensure efficient, coordinated responses along the shared border.

State Representative Rob Consalvo was invited to speak on behalf of adopting this local option and he noted that he originally filed this legislation in the 2000s, as a Home Rule Petition, while serving as the



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Boston City Councilor for District 5. Representative Consalvo explained that the Boston–Dedham border creates a unique situation in which traffic signals, homes, and commercial buildings straddle both municipalities. He emphasized that this special act represents a commonsense approach to ensuring continuity between Boston and Dedham and supports a collaborative effort in public safety enforcement, particularly given the amount of shared land along the border. He urged the Committee to advance the measure so this long-standing issue can be resolved for constituents who encounter these challenges in their daily lives.

Councilors asked the panelists questions, including why such an agreement does not already exist between Boston and Dedham. Representative Consalvo explained that efforts had been underway for some time, but noted that now is the appropriate moment to finalize it. Superintendent Ciccolo Jr. added that the boundary with Brookline and Newton was developed earlier than the Dedham border, which is likely why that agreement was established first. He emphasized that similar problems call for similar solutions.

Councilors also asked how this partnership would interact with the Boston Trust Act. Superintendent Ciccolo Jr. explained that, in real time, information is shared with the agency that has jurisdiction over the incident once it is concluded and based on where it occurred. At that point, Boston Police involvement ends, and the process works the same if in reverse. Councilors further asked what would happen if a BPD officer shared immigration-related information with a Dedham officer. The Superintendent clarified that BPD officers remain bound by Boston Police Department policies. Even if they are, for example, executing a warrant in Western Massachusetts, Boston Police rules—including those established by the Boston Trust Act—still apply and govern their actions and potential consequences. Chief D'Entremont also clarified that the Town of Dedham does not inquire about individuals' immigration status.

In closing, both the Boston and Dedham Police Departments expressed their support for this special act being approved as a local option. They concluded the hearing by urging the Council to vote in favor of adopting the local option for this special act.

## *Committee Chair Recommended Action*

As Chair of the Committee on Public Safety & 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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