



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Brian Worrell, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

September 6, 2024

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Ways and Means was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #1163, Message and order for your approval an Order to reduce the FY25 appropriation for the Reserve for Collective Bargaining by One Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy-Three Dollars (\$187,373.00) to provide funding for the Boston Police Department for the FY25 increases contained within the collective bargaining agreement between the City of Boston and the Boston Police School Traffic Supervisors Association, Inc. (BPSTSA).

Docket #1164, Message and order for a supplemental appropriation Order for the Boston Police Department for FY25 in the amount of One Hundred Eighty-Seven Thousand Three Hundred Seventy Three Dollars (\$187,373.00) to cover the FY25 cost items contained within the collective bargaining agreements between the City of Boston and the Boston Police School Traffic Supervisors Association, Inc. (BPSTSA). The terms of the contract are September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2027. The major provisions of the contract includes a base wage increase of 2% to be given in September of each year of the contract term and flat amounts of \$200, \$200, \$275, and \$350 to be added to annual salaries in January of each fiscal year.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the committee on August 7, 2024.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #1163 is an Order reducing the FY25 appropriation for the Reserve for Collective Bargaining by \$187,373 to provide funding for the Boston Police Department for the FY25 increases contained with the collective bargaining agreements between the City of Boston and the Boston Police School Traffic Supervisors Association, INC. (BPSTSA). ***Docket #1164*** is a supplemental appropriation Order for the Boston Police Department for FY25 in the amount of \$187,373 to cover the FY25 cost items contained within this collective bargaining agreement. The terms of the contract are September 1, 2023 through August 31, 2027.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Friday, September 6, 2024 to discuss Dockets #1163-1164. The Committee was joined by Jim Williamson, Budget Director for the City of Boston, Renee Bushey, Director of Labor for the City of Boston, and John Wilton, Director of Labor Relations for the Boston Police Department, who all provided testimony on behalf of the Administration.

Director Williamson stated that Dockets #1163-1164 would transfer \$187,373 from the Collective Bargaining Reserve into the Boston Police Department budget. He added that as of June 2024, the Collective Bargaining Reserve totaled \$96.8 million to cover all outstanding collective bargaining contracts. There have been a total of four collective bargaining contracts that have been approved by the Council so far in the current fiscal year totaling around \$890,000. With this reduction of the BPSTSA, the new balance in the Reserve will be \$95.8 million.

Director Bushee stated that this contract mirrors similar collective bargaining agreements approved in recent years with the only major difference being that School Traffic Supervisors are not full-time employees - working about 15 hours a week. The major provisions of the contract include a base wage increase of 2% to be given in September of each year of the contract term and flat amounts of \$200, \$200, \$275, and \$350 to be added to annual salaries in January of each fiscal year. With this new contract, starting salaries will be increased one additional step higher, and sick and bereavement leave will also be available during new hires' probation period. Mr. Wilton stated that this is a strong contract approved by all parties.

Councilors and panel discussed various topics including current job vacancies, the school districts that are not properly staffed with School Traffic Supervisors, veteran benefits, traffic and pedestrian safety, recruitment efforts, and the importance of the work conducted by School Traffic Supervisors.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that the matters **OUGHT TO PASS**.

Brian Worrell

Brian Worrell, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means