



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

December 5, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

#1400, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Million Nine Hundred Sixty-Six Thousand Nine Hundred Dollars (\$3,966,900.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY26 Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Grant, awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund a comprehensive, interagency strategy that connects law enforcement, employment, education, public health and youth development agencies to reduce youth violence in the Commonwealth.

#1409, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Ten Thousand Dollars and One Cent (\$10,000.01) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 National Violent Death Reporting System, awarded by the MA Department of Public Health to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund data collection by the Bureau of Investigative Services and the Drug Control Unit.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu, and was referred to the Committee on August 6, 2025.

#1548, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Four Million One Hundred Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (\$4,125,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the FY26 Public Safety Answering Point Support and Incentive Grant, awarded by MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund costs associated with providing Enhanced 911 services.

#1549, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Hundred Twenty-Eight Thousand One Hundred Fifty-Six Dollars and Thirty-Two Cents (\$528,156.32) in the form of a grant, for the FY26 State 11 Training Grant, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund the training and certification of Enhanced 911 telecommunications staff.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu, and were referred to the Committee on August 27, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #1400 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the FY26 Safe and Successful Youth Initiative Grant in the amount of \$3,966,900. This grant was awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Boston Police Department. The grant will



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fund a comprehensive, interagency strategy that connects law enforcement, employment, education, public health and youth development agencies to reduce youth violence in the Commonwealth.

Docket #1409 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the FY23 National Violent Death Reporting System grant in the amount of \$10,000.01. This grant was awarded by the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to be administered by the Boston Police Department. The grant will fund data collection by the Bureau of Investigative Services and the Drug Control Unit.

Docket #1548 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the FY26 Public Safety Answering Point Support and Incentive Grant in the amount of \$4,125,000. This grant was awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to be administered by the Boston Police Department. The grant will fund costs associated with providing Enhanced 911 services.

Docket #1549 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the FY26 State 11 Training Grant in the amount of \$528,156.32. This grant was awarded by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to be administered by the Boston Police Department. The grant will fund the training and certification of Enhanced 911 telecommunications staff.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Thursday, December 4, 2025 to discuss Dockets #1400, #1409, and #1548-1549. The Committee heard testimony from representatives of the Boston Police Department including Frank Deluca, SSYI Program Coordinator, Lieutenant Detective Daniel Duff, Commander of the Homicide Unit; Christopher Markunas, MPA Director of Operations Division; and Maria Cheevers, Director of the Office of Research and Development.

Director Markunas discussed Dockets #1548-1549 stating that these grants will fund costs associated with the Enhanced 911 telecommunications and services. He stated that Docket #1548 is the FY26 Public Safety Answering Point Support and Incentive Grant in the amount of \$4,125,000 which will enable the Boston Police Department to fund their CAD system maintenance which he described as the technical backbone of the City's 911 response system for the Boston Fire Department, Boston Emergency Medical Services, and Boston Police Department. It will also fund costs associated with staffing the 911 Operation Center. Director Markunas stated that this is an annual grant which the City receives based on call volume and population. Docket #1549 is the FY26 State 11 Training Grant in the amount of \$528,156.32. This grant supports costs associated with ensuring that all 911 dispatchers are certified and up to date on training requirements and any other trainings deemed necessary.

Lieutenant Detective Daniel Duff discussed Docket #1409 stating that it is a grant that will fund data collection by the Bureau of Investigative Services and the Drug Control Unit in the amount of \$10,000.01. He stated that this is an annual grant that the City has been receiving since 2003. He explained that each year the Boston Police Department work with the Massachusetts Department of Public Health to review data collection related to homicides that occur in Boston. The type of data collected and reported includes circumstances, suspects, relationships between the victim and suspects, and firearm and ballistics information. Lieutenant Detective Duff stated that Boston Police Department staff reviewed the approximate volume of violent deaths anticipated each year and develop a planning process utilizing the



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Department of Public Health data. He stated that they coordinate with the Department of Public Health in reporting all data collected by the police department, Chief Medical Examiner, and the media.

Mr. Deluca discussed Docket #1400 stating that this grant will be used to support the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (SSYI) in the amount of \$3,966,900. The Boston Police Department provides administrative oversight to the SSYI program as it works with community coalitions to implement a combined public health and public safety approach toward eliminating youth violence in Boston. SSYI focuses on young adults between the ages of 17-24 who are identified as proven risks to be perpetrators or victims of gun violence. SSYI receives referrals from law enforcement partners like the Massachusetts Department of Youth Services, the Department of Correction, and the Youth Violence Strike Force. The Department contracts with the Boston Public Health Commission to be the program's lead agency - coordinating the delivery of intervention services to individuals including behavior health counseling, and employment or education services.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

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

Henry A. Santana

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