



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities
Erin J. Murphy, Chair

One City Hall Square 5th Floor, Boston, MA 02201 ♦ Phone: (617) 635-3040 ♦ city.council@boston.gov

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

February 5, 2024

Dear Councilors,

The Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0109, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Five Million Dollars (\$5,000,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Nazzaro Community Center Renovation grant, awarded by the United States Department of Treasury, passed through the MA Executive Office of Economic Development, to be administered by Property Management. The grant will fund repairs and capital improvements to maintain current functionality and programming at the Nazzaro Community Center.

Docket #0111, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$150,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Age Strong Universal Fund, awarded by the Donor Group to be administered by the Age Strong Commission. The grant will fund senior center programs and services for older adults in Boston.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on December 4, 2024.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #0109, is an order requesting authorization to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$5M for the purpose of renovating the Nazzaro Community Center. The grant will be administered by Property Management and will fund essential repairs and capital improvements to maintain the center's current functionality and programming throughout the renovations.

Docket #0111, is an order requesting authorization to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$150K from the Age Strong Universal Fund for the purpose of supporting senior center programs and services for older adults in Boston. The grant will be administered by the Age Strong Commission and will fund specific programs and events for older adults in Boston through small, local donations.

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Thursday, January 30, 2025. The Committee heard testimony on behalf of the Administration from Eamon Shelton, Commissioner of Property Management; Mary Stycos, Special Assistant to the Commissioner Property Management; Junior Tatis-Zapata, Capital Projects Manager, Property Management; Emily Shea, Commissioner of Age Strong; and Myles Gerraty, Senior Director of Administration and Finance for Age Strong.

With respect to ***Docket #0109***, the Administration explained the history of the Nazzaro Center and the project's construction goals and sustainability efforts. The Administration detailed the Nazzaro Community Center's history, describing it as a landmarked historic building in the North End that has



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served as a bathhouse and later a community hub under BCYF since the 1980s. The Administration stated that through the planned renovations, the City is aiming to address critical structural needs and modernize city facilities with advanced management tools, in alignment with Mayor Wu's Boston Resilient Buildings Program, which emphasizes sustainable facility management. It was explained that the renovations would focus on structural repairs, including improvements to the building's systems, roof, drainage, and accessibility compliance and would be overseen by the architectural firm, Oudens Ello (*previously worked on the Boston Public Library's Central Branch and specializes in historic renovations.*) Finally, the Administration confirmed that the next phase of the project would involve finalizing the scope of work, a five-month design period, and a projected construction start in September 2025. With regard to programming, the Committee inquired about whether alternative programming spaces would be utilized or had been considered. The Administration assured that adjustments would be made to minimize disruptions, with potential relocation to other community centers if necessary.

With respect to **Docket #0111**, the Administration explained how the Age Strong Universal Fund functions and how donations are collected and utilized. It was explained that the fund was established in collaboration with the auditing department to manage small donations for senior centers and event sponsorships without requiring separate approval for each contribution. It was further explained that annually, the funds are distributed across senior centers and programs as needed. In response to questions about public accessibility and tracking the allocation of the donations that comprise the fund, the Administration confirmed that the funds are accounted for internally, however, the information is not publicly accessible on any kind of platform at this time.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Strong Women, Families, and Communities, 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**.

Erin J. Murphy, Chair
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