



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

October 31, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #1833, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Ninety-Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy-Six Dollars (\$99,476.00) in the form of a grant from the Pipeline Emergency Response Grant (PERG), awarded by the United States Department of Transportation to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund training for emergency responders in high-consequence areas to protect people, property, and the environment from accidents involving gas or hazardous liquid pipelines.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu, and was referred to the Committee on October 22, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #1833 authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Pipeline Emergency Response Grant in the amount of \$99,476. This grant was awarded by the United States Department of Transportation to be administered by the Boston Fire Department. The grant would fund training for emergency responders in high-consequence areas to protect people, property, and the environment from accidents involving gas or hazardous liquid pipelines.

Information Received

The Committee received information from the Administration regarding Docket #1833 stating that this docket authorizes the City of Boston to accept and expend the Pipeline Emergency Response Grant in the amount of \$99,476. The Pipeline Emergency Response Grant (PERG) focuses on training emergency responders in high-consequence areas to protect people, property, and the environment from accidents involving gas or hazardous liquid Pipelines. The United States Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration has awarded the City of Boston Fire Department \$99,476.00 in funding. This funding will allow the City of Boston to enhance its emergency response capabilities for a high-pressure natural gas transmission pipeline in the West Roxbury neighborhood.

Project goals include training 203 firefighters, strengthening inter-agency collaboration, identifying response requirements, purchasing specialized equipment, and ensuring sustainable integration with existing capabilities. Three activities are proposed for the performance period: an 8-hour command-level training for 78 chief officers and HazMat specialists; a multi-agency tabletop exercise simulation involving BFD, police, emergency management, and pipeline operators to practice coordinated response; and equipment needed to support early detection and response, along with the training required to implement it. The affected area includes vulnerable populations and critical infrastructure such as a Veterans Administration (V.A.) hospital, schools, and densely populated elderly and residential housing.



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Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Public Safety and 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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