



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Brian J. Worrell, Chair

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

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

December 3, 2025

Dear Councilors,

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

Docket #1927, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Two Million Six Hundred Seven Thousand Dollars (\$2,607,000.00) in the form of a grant, for the Community Mitigation Grant, awarded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission to be administered by the Office of Budget Management. The grant will fund offset costs related to the construction and operation of a gaming establishment.

This matter was sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and was referred to the Committee on October 29, 2025.

Summary of Legislation

Docket #1927 is a community mitigation grant, awarded by the Massachusetts Gaming Commission and administered by the Office of Budget Management. This grant will offset costs related to the construction and operation of a gaming establishment.

Since 2015, the Massachusetts Gaming Commission (MGC) has granted approximately \$56.7M in funding to advance needs in transportation, community planning, workforce development, and public safety initiatives for eligible municipalities and government entities within the vicinity of casinos, including Boston. In Fall 2023, the MGC voted to shift the fund to a municipal block grant format.

The funding will be allocated as follows: \$758,837.54 toward public safety mitigation costs and \$1,848,162.46 toward transportation mitigation costs. The transportation mitigation costs are broken down as shown below:

Area + Timeline	Scope	Amount
Chelsea St at Terminal St (Intersection Improvements) July 2025 - June 2027	This traffic improvement project constructs a new signal intersection to manage the existing truck traffic along with the increased volumes of pedestrian traffic. The City is proposing a new accessible crossing to accommodate the increase in foot traffic. Currently, there is not an existing accessible crosswalk at this location.	\$748,162.46
Bikeshare Expansion in Charlestown	This project would allow the City of Boston to purchase and install 4 additional bikeshare stations	\$200,000



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Brian J. Worrell, Chair

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

July 2025 - July 2026	with bikes in Charlestown at critical locations to help ensure that we mitigate the impact of congestion and traffic from the Encore Casino. The locations are as follows: Maffa Way at Main St, Charlestown Navy Yard Ferry Terminal, Main Street and Salem Street, Medford St and McKnulty Ct.	
Boston Harborwalk Extension Construction FY26 and FY27	Construct a missing Boston Harborwalk section in the vicinity of Encore Boston Harbor, improving roadway safety and traffic congestion. The estimated pre-75% cost estimate is \$5.73M; this \$900,000 will complement additional funding from the City of Boston and private foundation grants.	\$900,000

Please see below for a breakdown of the public safety allocations:

Description of Purchase/Work	Timeline	Quantity	Budget
FT Program Coordinator Salary & Fringe - 24 months	July 2025 - June 2028	1	\$177,331.75
Overtime for 7 Bureaus, Units and Officers	Jan 2026 - June 2028	7	\$332,928.16
Human Trafficking Training for the HTU	October 2025	5	\$10,000
Truckers Against Trafficking Training for the CVEU	September 2025	3	\$8,550
Dell XPS 17 Laptop	Jan 2026 - June 2028	2	\$4,400
Gore-tex Hi-Vis Super Shell Jackets for Area A MOPS	Jan 2026 - June 2028	4	\$2,079.96
Dark Navy Fleece Jackets for Area A MOPS	Jan 2026 - June 2028	4	\$443.84
Frisk-master all leather police gloves	Jan 2026 - June 2028	4	\$195.80
Neos Adventure Overshoes	Jan 2026 - June 2028	4	\$431.80



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Brian J. Worrell, Chair

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

Police Field Boots	Jan 2026 - June 2028	4	\$2,500
Shipping for all police Motorcycle Uniform supplies and equipment	Jan 2026 - June 2028	4	\$48.00
Vehicle the HTU - 2024 Honda Odyssey	Jan 2026 - June 2028	1	\$42,987
Harley-Davidson Police Motorcycles for Area A	Jan 2026 - June 2028	4	\$119,956
10 % City of Boston Admin. Rate			\$68,985.23

Information Received at Hearing

The Committee held a hearing on Monday, November 24, 2025, to discuss Docket #1927. David Brade, Project Coordinator, Boston Police Department (BPD), Gigi Munden, Senior Project Engineer for Capital Construction, Planning Department, Omar Khoshafa, Director of Finance and Budget, Streets Cabinet, and Maria Cheevers, Director of Research and Development, Boston Police Department testified on behalf of the Administration.

Senior Project Engineer Munden stated the Planning Department will receive a portion of the funding to fund the Harborwalk Extension Project in the Little Mystic Channel. She stated the project will construct a missing part of the Harborwalk by the terminal in Chelsea Streets in Charlestown and will help mitigate negative effects of the casino construction by creating outdoor recreation opportunities. Mr. Brade stated he is the project coordinator for community mitigation funds at the Boston Police Department; he stated he works to coordinate proper reporting, research, and internal stakeholder engagement to ensure the funds are being utilized for advanced training. Director Khoshafa stated there are two Streets projects that will be either partially or completely funded by this grant: the intersection work at Chelsea and Terminal Street—which will be fully funded by this grant—and the adding for four new blue bike stations in Charlestown.

Representatives stated this grant stems from the Expanded Gaming Act and that the City has been receiving funding since 2015. Mr. Brade stated the portion of this grant dedicated for public safety is \$622,000; this grant supports operations readiness and support for the Human Trafficking Unit, the Crimes Against Children Unit, the Boston Regional Intelligence Center, and the Bureau of Field Services. He stated these funds allow for the City to mitigate the documented impacts of casino construction on human trafficking, organized crime, financial crime, drug distribution, child exploitation, cyber threats, and traffic related public safety concerns. Senior Project Engineer Munden stated this grant will be applied for the Harborwalk project for the first time; the project is in design and will be completed by 2027. Representatives stated predominantly transportation safety issues have risen with the construction of the casino, and that BPD increases patrols accordingly during high traffic times (Thursday - Sunday). BPD maintains open communication with relevant partners to track instances of drug-related sexual assaults and human trafficking. Representatives stated because the grant changed from a BPD direct grant



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Ways and Means
Brian J. Worrell, Chair

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

to a City of Boston block grant, that then gets meted out to various departments, BPD decided to utilize the funds from 2025 onwards for a law-enforcement task force with agencies from other municipalities to keep an eye on the bigger picture networking type of crimes.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Ways and Means, 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**.

Brian J. Worrell, Chair
Committee on Ways and Means