



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice
Michael Flaherty, Chair

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REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

February 15, 2023

Dear Councilors:

The Committee held a hearing on February 14, 2023 regarding *Docket #0210, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Six Hundred Forty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three Dollars and Ten Cents (\$1,642,723.10) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 Senator Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund regional and multi-disciplinary approaches to combat gang violence through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution and reintegration programs*, referred to the Committee on January 25, 2023; and,

Docket #0325, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Seven Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$1,722,764.20) in the form of a grant for the Local Fire Department Projects and Grants Line Item 83240050 of the FY23 State Budget, awarded by Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund decontamination equipment, vehicle and maintenance expenses for the Hazard Response Team at the Boston Fire Department, referred to the Committee on February 1, 2023; and,

Docket #0326, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Local Fire Department Project and Grants for the FY23 State Budget Line Item 8240050 awarded by Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Boston Fire Department. The grant will fund renovations at Engine 8/Ladder 1 in the North End, to improve the safety, health and wellness of firefighters, referred to the Committee on February 1, 2023. Mayor Wu sponsored these dockets and the Committee heard public comments.

Summary of Legislation as Filed:

Docket #0210 provides \$1,642,723.10 for the FY23 Senator Charles Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative. This grant will fund regional and multi-disciplinary approaches to combat gang

violence through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution and reintegration programs.

Docket #0325 provides \$1,722,764.20 for the Local Fire Department Projects and Grants Line Item 83240050 of the FY23 State Budget. This grant will fund decontamination equipment, vehicle and maintenance expenses for the Hazard Response Team at the Boston Fire Department.

Docket #0326 provides \$300,000.00 for the Local Fire Department Project and Grants for the FY23 State Budget Line Item 8240050. The grant will fund renovations at Engine 8/Ladder 1 in the North End, to improve the safety, health and wellness of firefighters.

Information Gathered at the Hearing:

The Chair read the dockets into the record and summarized how the funds would be used. The Committee was joined by the following individuals from the Administration: Commissioner Paul Burke, Boston Fire Department (BFD); Kathleen Judge, Deputy Commissioner of Administration & Finance, BFD; and, DeMon Bills, Project Coordinator Senator Charles E. Shannon CSI, Boston Police Department.

Commissioner Burke explained that the funding will be used for hazardous material training. Commissioner Burke discussed the importance of the training for firefighter safety and referred to the dangers caused by lithium batteries found in electric vehicles as an example for the need for further training. Commissioner Burke explained that the funding will be used to purchase decontamination supplies, office supplies, and out of state training. Commissioner Burke explained that the whole department will need to be trained. Commissioner Burke stated that the BFD will eventually need a new hazardous decontamination vehicle and that hopefully it will be able to purchase one in the next funding cycle.

Commissioner Burke discussed the importance of the grant money for the renovations at Engine 8/Ladder 1 in the North End. Commissioner Burke explained that the renovations will improve the safety, health and wellness of firefighters. Commissioner Burke explained that the funding will be used to change HVAC equipment and to waterproof the building and basement.

Mr. Bills testified in support of the funding for the FY23 Senator Charles Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative. Mr. Bills described the resources and organizations that the funding supports. Mr. Bills explained that the purpose of the initiative is to provide programs and resources that serve positive youth development and recreation activities. Mr. Bills stated that in 2015, the BPD went to a competitive bid process. Mr. Bills explained that the BPD receives about 50 applications and funds 20 organizations. The Committee heard testimony from the public about the importance of this funding to support programs to prevent violence and to have a positive impact on youth.

The Committee discussed the importance of the funding for the BFD so that the department is able to purchase the necessary equipment and provide the training for responding to hazardous materials and proper decontamination efforts. The Committee discussed the importance of the funding in order to ensure the Engine 8 is able to have necessary upgrades in order to ensure the wellness, health, and safety of firefighters. The Committee discussed the importance of the funding for the Senator Charles Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative to ensure that the support of the organizations that provide a positive impact for youth in order to prevent violence continue.

Rationale and Recommended Action:

Passage of Docket #0210 will ensure that the Senator Charles Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative has the funding it needs to continue the services, resources, and programs it provides. Passage of Docket #0325 and Docket #0326 will ensure that the BFD has the funding for necessary supplies and training and to make the needed improvements to Engine 8 in the North End.

By the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred:

Docket #0210, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Six Hundred Forty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Three Dollars and Ten Cents (\$1,642,723.10) in the form of a grant, for the FY23 Senator Charles E. Shannon Jr. Community Safety Initiative, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund regional and multi-disciplinary approaches to combat gang violence through coordinated prevention and intervention, law enforcement, prosecution and reintegration programs; and,

Docket #0325, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Million Seven Hundred Twenty Two Thousand Seven Hundred Sixty Four Dollars and Twenty Cents (\$1,722,764.20) in the form of a grant for the Local Fire Department Projects and Grants Line Item 83240050 of the FY23 State Budget, awarded by Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Fire Department. The grant will fund decontamination equipment, vehicle and maintenance expenses for the Hazard Response Team at the Boston Fire Department; and,

Docket #0326, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Local Fire Department Project and Grants for the FY23 State Budget Line Item 8240050 awarded by Massachusetts Department of Fire Services to be administered by the Boston Fire Department. The grant will fund renovations at Engine 8/Ladder 1 in the North End, to improve the safety, health and wellness of firefighters,

submits a report recommending that these dockets ought to pass.

For the Chair:



Michael Flaherty, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice