



# BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice  
Michael Flaherty, Chair

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## REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

October 19, 2022

Dear Councilors:

The Committee held a hearing on October 11, 2022 regarding *Docket #1019, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,450,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY23 Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Police Department and Docket #1020, Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Securing the Cities continuation, awarded by the United States Department of Homeland Security to be administered by the Police Department (“BPD”),* referred to the Committee on August 31, 2022. Mayor Wu sponsored the dockets.

### **Summary of Legislation as Filed:**

Docket #1019, message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,450,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY23 Safe and Successful Youth Initiative (“SSYI”), awarded by the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund a comprehensive, inter-agency strategy that connects law enforcement, employment, education, public health and youth development agencies to reduce youth violence in the Commonwealth.

Docket #1020, message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Securing the Cities continuation, awarded by the United States Department of Homeland Security to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund continued enhancement for regional capabilities to detect, identify, report and interdict nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control and provide regional training and exercise opportunities necessary to enhance regional capabilities.

### **Information Gathered at the Hearing:**

The Chair reviewed the dockets and summarized the use of the grant money. With regard to Docket #01019, the Chair inquired about the BPD’s role with the SSYI, the eligibility for the SSYI program, and the types of intervention services offered through the SSYI program. With regard to Docket #1020, the Chair asked about the Securing the Cities program, the objectives of the program, how the funds will be used, and the type of training that is involved. The following individuals from the Administration testified in support of the dockets: Frank DeLuca, SSYI

Program Coordinator, Office of Research and Development, BPD; Roy Martin, Division of Violence Prevention, Boston Public Health Commission (“BPHC”); and, Anthony Rizzo, Program Manager, Metro Boston Securing the Cities, BPD.

Mr. DeLuca described the SSYI program including its objective, criteria, and partners. Mr. DeLuca explained that the BPD is the grantee and provides administrative oversight. Mr. DeLuca explained that the grant is to support the SSYI for fiscal years 2023-2025. Mr. DeLuca stated that the SSYI program provides a collaborative approach involving public health and public safety in order to eliminate youth violence in Boston. SSYI focuses on young adults between the ages of 17 and 24 who are identified as proven risk or most likely to be perpetrators or victims of violence. SSYI receives referrals from the BPD Youth Violence Task Force and other partnering law enforcement agencies to identify individuals who satisfy the eligibility criteria. In order to meet eligibility requirements, an individual must be the age of 17-24 and meet one of the following conditions:

- repeatedly engages in crime against persons;
- repeatedly engages in weapons violence;
- is in a leadership role in a gang;
- is substantially involved in gang activity or violence;
- significantly facilitates gang activity or street violence.

An individual must also currently reside in the community, spend a significant amount of time in the community, or is expected to be released into the community.

The BPD contracts with the BPHC to be the program lead agency. The case managers at BPHC refer clients to partnering community organizations offering behavioral health, counseling, employment, and education services. The current organizations are MissionsSAFE, Intercity Weightlifting, More Than Words, Notre Dame Education Center, Boston Medical Center Emergency Services Program, and YOU Boston.

The Committee discussed proven risk as criteria and inquired whether the grant will assist with the implementation of intervention programs. The Committee also asked about the role of the BPD. Mr. Martin reviewed the intervention process explaining that the BPHC partners with other organizations, agencies, and programs in order to identify individuals that qualify and are in need of services. Mr. Martin stated that the BPHC is looking at expanding the continuum of services for the SSYI program. Mr. Martin explained that the BPD is needed in order to provide these intervention services with the focus on persons with the highest risk. Mr. Martin also explained that the BPHC partners with Boston Public Schools engagement centers and street workers. Mr. Martin explained that SSYI has a capacity to assist up to 135 individuals per year and that for the past three years the program has exceeded previous years involvement numbers. Mr. Martin stated that this program helps to reduce violent crime in the neighborhoods. Mr. Martin emphasized that this program is essential in reducing crime especially since other similar programs have stopped and the SSYI is only constant.

Councilors inquired about collaboration with the courts, the types of intervention services offered and recognizing gun violence as a public health emergency in order to provide more resources. Mr. Martin explained that there are four types of action as follows: case management; education; employment; and, behavioral health. Mr. Martin explained that the program allows for stipends to the client. Mr. Martin explained that the program asks individuals what they want to do, provide meaningful adult relationships, stabilization, relocation assistance, and employment assistance.

The Committee discussed Docket #1020 and heard testimony supporting the grant from Anthony Rizzo, Program Manager, Metro Boston Securing the Cities, BPD. Mr. Rizzo explained the goals of the program, reviewed the equipment that the funds will purchase, and stated that it is currently in its third year. Mr. Rizzo stated that Securing the Cities (“STC”) is a five year federally funded grant program with the objective of preventing the possession, movement, and deployment of a nuclear or radiological weapon and component materials by an adversary within the United States. The goal of the program is to develop and enhance sustainable radiological and nuclear detection capabilities among participating partners.

Mr. Rizzo explained that \$950,000.00 will be allotted to purchase equipment, backfill and overtime for personnel equipment training, and the STC Boston Program Manager. The equipment to be purchased includes backpack detection systems and mobile detection devices to allow for detection of radioactive materials in public areas with large crowds, as well as radioisotope identification devices that provide the ability to distinguish between non-threatening materials and high level threats. The personnel utilizing the equipment will initially receive between four to sixteen hours of training to establish proficiency with the devices. The BPD executes memorandums of agreement before any equipment or funds are transferred from the BPD to participating partners. This is the third year of the program and the City anticipates two more years of funding through the program.

**Rationale and Recommended Action:**

Passage of Docket #1019 will allow the BPD and BPHC to continue the public health and public safety approach to offer intervention and support services to those at risk. The SSYI program engages proven risk young adults and redirects them from contributing to street violence toward a positive alternative through behavioral health, employment, education, and case management; thereby, reducing violent crime in the neighborhoods.

Passage of Docket #1020 will allow the City to continue with the STC Boston program. Continuing with this program will allow the City to purchase detection equipment, fund personnel costs and fund training. The detection equipment will allow the City to identify harmful radioactive materials before the deployment of such materials. This is significant in order to protect the residents of Boston from threats and attacks by adversaries. Boston has a significant amount of square footage devoted to lab space and life sciences as well as hosts many large scale events; therefore, having detection equipment to identify radioactive materials is important in order to ensure public safety. This funding will allow the STC Boston Program to continue the goal of developing and enhancing sustainable radiological and nuclear detection capabilities.

By the Chair of the Committee on Government Operations, to which the following was referred: ***Docket #1019, message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Million Four Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$3,450,000.00) in the form of a grant for the FY23 Safe and Successful Youth Initiative, awarded by the MA Executive Office of Health and Human Services to be administered by the Police Department. The grant will fund a comprehensive, inter-agency strategy that connect law enforcement, employment, education, public health and youth development agencies to reduce youth violence in the Commonwealth.***

***Docket #1020, message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Nine Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$950,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Securing the Cities continuation, awarded by the United States Department of Homeland Security to be administered by***

*the Police Department. The grant will fund continued enhancement for regional capabilities to detect, identify, report and interdict nuclear and other radioactive material out of regulatory control and provide regional training and exercise opportunities necessary to enhance regional capabilities,*

submits a report recommending that these dockets **ought to pass**.

For the Chair:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Flaherty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "M" and a long, sweeping underline.

Michael Flaherty, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety and Criminal Justice