



BOSTON CITY COUNCIL

Committee on Environmental Justice Resiliency & Parks Kendra Lara, *Chair*

REPORT OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

June 10, 2022

Dear Councilors:

The Committee on Environmental Justice Resiliency & Parks was referred the following dockets for consideration:

Docket #0433 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of Three Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$350,000.00) in the form of a grant of the Massachusetts Diesel Emission Reduction Act grant.

Docket # 0539 Message and order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend the amount of One Hundred Eighty Thousand Dollars (\$180,000.00) in the form of a grant for the Community First Partnership, awarded by Mass Save to be administered by the Environment Department.

These matters were sponsored by Mayor Michelle Wu and referred to the Committee on March 30, 2022 and April 27, 2022. A public hearing was held on Thursday, June 9, 2022. Delavern Stanislaus, Director of Transportation for the Boston Public Schools, gave the committee an overview of how the grant will fund twelve buses in a electronic school bus pilot program expected to deploy during the school year 2022-2023. Twenty diesel buses will be removed from the City's fleet and replaced with fully electric school buses. Dr. Alison Brizius, Commissioner of the Environment Department, gave the committee an overview of the Mass Save Community First Partnership Grant. The City of Boston has been selected for the Mass Save Community First Partnership and will work with Eversource and National Grid to bring energy cost savings to residents, small businesses, houses of worship, and local nonprofits in East Boston, Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. All four neighborhoods are considered environmental justice communities, paying into the Mass Save program like everyone else but historically experiencing disproportionately low participation rates. With intentional and targeted outreach to these communities, specifically focusing on renters, residents whose primary language is not English, moderate-income residents (defined as 60-80% of state median income) and small businesses, the Community First Partnership will share energy efficiency opportunities with residents to provide emissions reductions, cost savings, and increased comfort. Specifically, participants will receive a no-cost energy assessment to identify energy-saving opportunities, such as insulation and heating and cooling equipment upgrades. Through this partnership, the Mass Save Sponsors will offer up to 100% off the cost of approved upgrades. Participants can also receive a variety of no-cost energy-saving products such as water-saving devices and programmable thermostats.

Summary of Legislation

Docket 0433- The funds will be used to purchase and deploy fuel efficient school buses as part of the Boston Public School fleet.

Docket 0539- The grant will fund outreach and engagement with environmental justice communities to drive increased awareness and measurable participation in energy efficiency programs.

Committee Chair Recommended Action

As Chair of the Committee on Environmental Justice Resiliency & Parks , I recommend moving the listed dockets from the Committee to the full Council for discussion and formal action. At that time, my recommendation to the full Council will be that these matters **OUGHT TO PASS**.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kendra Lara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kendra" and last name "Lara" clearly distinguishable.

Kendra Lara, Chair

Committee on Environmental Justice Resiliency & Parks