



Boston City Council

Committee on Government Operations

Maureen Feeney, *Chair*

June 22, 2009

Dear Councillors:

The Committee on Government Operations held a hearing to discuss an ordinance regarding youth crime statistics reporting in the City of Boston (Docket #0559). This matter was sponsored by Councillor Ross, referred to this Committee on Wednesday, April 15, 2009, and heard at a public hearing on Monday, June 8, 2009 at which public comment was taken.

The proposed ordinance seeks to increase the reporting of violent shootings and homicides involving minors as either victims or perpetrators. The Boston Police Department already provides crime statistics reporting, but making more information available on youth violence would help to promulgate policy to combat this scary epidemic involving youth violence.

At the hearing several individuals testified, including representatives from the Boston Police Department and local non-profits, such as the Ella J. Baker House. The Massachusetts Juvenile Justice Task Force on Racial Disparities also presented written testimony in support of data collection. This testimony, coupled with new incidents of youth violence, makes regular reporting essential. During the hearing there was discussion of a pending state bill that would increase juvenile crime statistics reporting. This initiative prompted a discussion of federal grant opportunities, which are dependent on juvenile justice data collection.

In light of the public testimony and the dual purpose of providing more juvenile crime information for policy-making and grant eligibility determinations, a proposed revised draft was introduced to include reporting the gender, race, ethnicity and national origins minors involved in shooting incidents and homicides. This revised draft will provide more information to us and other City policymakers, hopefully leading to decreased youth violence and more federal funding to combat this unwelcome trend.

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

Docket #0559 An ordinance regarding youth crime statistics reporting in the City of Boston

based on information presented at the hearing and public comment gathered by the Committee and having considered the same, respectfully recommends that this matter ought to pass in a new draft.

For the Chair:

Maureen Feeney, *Chair*

Committee on Government Operations

Offered by Councillor MICHAEL P. ROSS, Flaherty, Murphy, Toener, Uoon
Ciommo, Linehan and Yancey
CITY OF BOSTON



IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINE

**AN ORDINANCE REGARDING YOUTH CRIME
STATISTICS REPORTING IN THE CITY OF BOSTON**

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council is committed to constantly exploring initiatives to make our community a safer place and to improving youth development opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, There have been recent reports of an alarming trend affecting our neighborhoods and youth in the City. After a four year-old was shot in Roxbury, a five month-old was harmed in Mattapan, a seven year-old was injured while playing in Mission Hill and a three month-old was almost injured by a bullet in Dorchester it is clear that no one escapes the horrors of violence; and,

WHEREAS, On September 18, 2008 the Boston Globe reported that the number of shooting victims seventeen years old and younger has almost tripled from 2002. In 2002 there were 23 and 67 in 2007. Last year alone the Globe reports that there were 53 seventeen year-olds and younger victimized by Boston crime; and,

WHEREAS, These reports require a multi-faceted approach and any attempt to combat this horrific trend requires continuous, updated reporting. The Boston Police Department already provides crime statistic reporting, but more can be done to educate City officials on the number of crimes involving youth. Increased reporting will assist in developing responsible, accurate responses to these crimes.
NOW, THEREFORE

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston, as follows:

Section 1.

CBC Chapter XI, section 11-1.1 is hereby amended by inserting immediately after the words "following categories:", in the first sentence of the first paragraph, the following:- "shooting incidents and homicides involving minors as victims and/or perpetrators categorized by age and specifying whether the minor involved was the victim and/or perpetrator,".

Section 2.

The provisions of these sections shall be effective immediately upon passage.

RECEIVED
CITY CLERK'S OFFICE
2009 APR 14 A 10:33
BOSTON, MA

100559

In City Council REFERRED TO
COMMITTEE ON

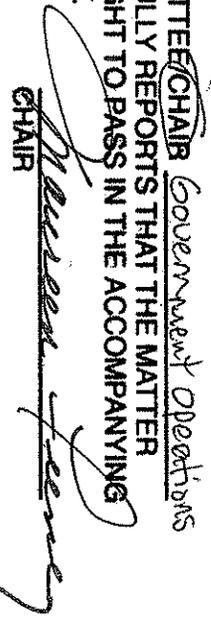
APR 15 2009

Government Operations

CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL

June 22 20 09

THE COMMITTEE CHAIR Government Operations
RESPECTFULLY REPORTS THAT THE MATTER
WITHIN OUGHT TO PASS IN THE ACCOMPANYING
NEW DRAFT.


CHAIR

ACCEPTED,

CITY CLERK

Offered by Councillor MICHAEL P. ROSS, Flaherty, Murphy, Turner,
Yoon, Ciommo, Linehan and Yancey

CITY OF BOSTON

IN THE YEAR TWO THOUSAND NINE



AN ORDINANCE REGARDING YOUTH CRIME STATISTICS REPORTING IN THE CITY OF BOSTON

WHEREAS, The Boston City Council is committed to constantly exploring initiatives to make our community a safer place and to improving youth development opportunities; and,

WHEREAS, There have been recent reports of an alarming trend affecting our neighborhoods and youth in the City. After a four year-old was shot in Roxbury, a five month-old was harmed in Mattapan, a seven year-old was injured while playing in Mission Hill and a three month-old was almost injured by a bullet in Dorchester it is clear that no one escapes the horrors of violence; and,

WHEREAS, On September 18, 2008 the Boston Globe reported that the number of shooting victims seventeen years old and younger has almost tripled from 2002. In 2002 there were 23 and 67 in 2007. Last year alone the Globe reports that there were 53 seventeen year-olds and younger victimized by Boston crime; and,

WHEREAS, These reports require a multi-faceted approach and any attempt to combat this horrific trend requires continuous, updated reporting. The Boston Police Department already provides crime statistic reporting, but more can be done to educate City officials on the number of crimes involving youth. Increased reporting will assist in developing responsible, accurate responses to these crimes. *NOW, THEREFORE*

Be it ordained by the City Council of Boston, as follows:

Section 1.

CBC Chapter XI, section 11-1.1 is hereby amended by inserting immediately after the words "following categories:", in the first sentence of the first paragraph, the following:-
"shooting incidents and homicides involving minors as victims and/or perpetrators

categorized by age, gender, race, ethnicity, and national origin, and specifying whether the minor involved was the victim and/or perpetrator.”

Section 2.

The provisions of these sections shall be effective immediately upon passage.