



Boston City Council

Special Committee on Federal Stimulus Oversight And Committee on Public Safety

Report of Committee Chair

June 2, 2009

The Boston City Council's Special Committee on the Federal Stimulus Oversight and Committee on Public Safety held a joint public hearing on **June 4, 2009 @ 3:00 p.m.** The hearing was held in the Christopher A. Iannella Chamber on the Fifth Floor of Boston City Hall. The subjects of the hearing were:

- 0549** Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend a grant of \$17,929.10 from the FY09 Avon Foundation "Not Seen, Not Heard: Helping Children of Domestic Violence" Award for the purpose of Family Justice Division Officers in multidisciplinary child witness to violence response training.
- 0581** Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend a grant of \$94,000.00 from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety and Security, for the purpose of funding the Boston Police Department's FY08 Buffer Zone Project.
- 0719** Message and order authorizing the Police Department to accept and expend a grant of \$15,869,888.00 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services Recovery Act, for the purpose of retaining the Boston Police Department Officers.
- 0720** Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend a grant of \$3,907,220.99 from the U.S. Department of Justice, for the FY09 Edward Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Program Recovery Act, for the purpose of retaining the Boston Police Department Officers.
- 0721** Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend a grant of \$1,293,194.47 from the U.S. Department of Justice, for the FY09 Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Recovery Act, for the purposes of retaining the Boston Police Department Officers.
- 0722** Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend a grant of \$1,255,620.15 from the U.S. Department of Justice, for the FY09 Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Recovery Act, for the purposes of retaining the Boston Police Department Officers.

0723 Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend a grant of \$17,064.00 from the Executive Office of Public Safety, for the purpose of funding the Police Department Homicide Unit's Victim Services Advocate

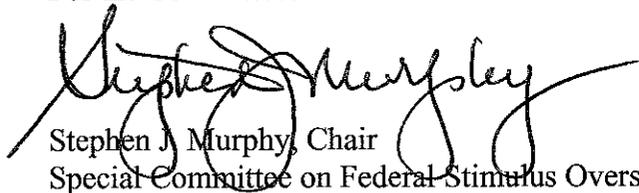
Docket #0549 was sponsored by Mayor Menino and referred to the Committee on Public Safety on April 15, 2009.

Docket #0581 was sponsored by Mayor Menino and referred to the Committee on Public Safety on April 29, 2009

Dockets # 0719-0723 were sponsored by Mayor Menino and jointly referred to the Special Committee on the Federal Stimulus Oversight and the Committee on Public Safety on Wednesday, May 20, 2009.

The Chair recommends that the dockets OUGHT TO PASS

For the Committees:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen J. Murphy". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Stephen J. Murphy, Chair
Special Committee on Federal Stimulus Oversight & Committee on Public Safety

FY09 Boston Police Department Enhancing Forensics Initiative

Grant Program: ARRA Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive: Enhancing Forensic and Crime Scene Investigation Grant

Funding Agency: Bureau of Justice Assistance

Amount: \$1,255,620.15 **Match:** \$[0.00]

Budget Items: **Personnel:** Civilian hiring of Firearm and Latent Print Examiners, Cold Case Forensic Criminalist, Evidence Technicians, and Evidence Management Systems Administrator

Fringe: Benefits for new/retained hires

Travel: Travel for required DOJ Grant meetings

Description (Abstract):

The Boston Police Department (Boston, MA), requests \$1,255,620.15 under Category V: Enhancing Forensic and Crime Scene Investigations of the ARRA BJA FY09 Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Program to support its "Enhancing Forensic and Crime Scene Investigations Hiring Initiative". The primary goals under this proposal for funding are: 1) Maintaining the uninterrupted delivery of essential services to the public; and, 2) Reducing violent crime across the City of Boston. These goals will be achieved through the following objectives: 1) Enhance the Department's capacity to provide high quality and cutting edge forensic service; 2) Reduce existing forensic case analysis backlogs; 3) Obtain Firearm Analysis Unit (FAU) and Latent Print Unit (LPU) accreditation; and, 4) Ensure coordinated administration of the Department's evidence management system.

Critical to both the maintenance of a safe community, and to the credibility and accountability of a police department to the community it serves is its ability to respond to a crime scene, and analyze and process evidence with the highest standards, quality assurances and expertise. As such, the Boston Police Department (BPD) proposes a strategy of making critical staff increases to the units of the Forensic Technology Division, including: three fully-qualified firearm examiners, three fully-qualified latent print examiners, two evidence technicians, one full-time forensic criminalist, and one evidence management system director.

The initiative's major deliverables are: 1) Job creation - measured by the number of positions hired under this award; 2) Job retention - measured by the number of trainee-examiners completing their training as a result of increased training time under this grant; 3) Enhanced forensic unit performance - measured by increases in the number of cases processed per month, reduction in cases backlogged per month, and where appropriate, reduction in the existing backlogged of cases; and, 4) Improved crime investigation and prosecution - measured by increased arrests and clearances, and decrease in crime rate.

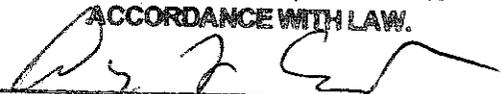
Future Funding: The BPD anticipates that this will be a one-time ARRA funding award.

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND EXPEND FY 2009 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL COMPETITIVE GRANT RECOVERY ACT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,255,620.15 FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE, BUREAU OF JUSTICE ASSISTANCE FOR THE BOSTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

ORDERED: That the Police Commissioner, acting on behalf of the City of Boston be, and hereby is authorized, pursuant to section 53A of chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws, to accept and expend the award of FY 09 Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Recovery Act funding from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance, for the purposes of retaining Boston Police Department police officers, not to exceed the amount of One Million Two Hundred Fifty Five Thousand Six Hundred Twenty Dollars and Fifteen Cents (\$1,255,620.15).

**I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT
THE FOREGOING, IF PASSED IN
THE ABOVE FORM, WILL BE IN
ACCORDANCE WITH LAW.**



WILLIAM F. SINNOTT
CORPORATION COUNSEL *SPN*



CITY OF BOSTON • MASSACHUSETTS

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
THOMAS M. MENINO

May 18, 2009

TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councilors:

I hereby transmit for your approval an Order authorizing the City of Boston to accept and expend FY 2009 Edward Byrne Memorial Competitive Grant Recovery Act funds in the amount of \$1,255,620.15 from the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance for the Boston Police Department for the purposes of retaining Boston Police Department police officers.

I urge your Honorable Body to adopt this Order as soon as possible so that the City of Boston may accept the funds expeditiously and expend them for the purposes for which these funds were granted.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston