



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

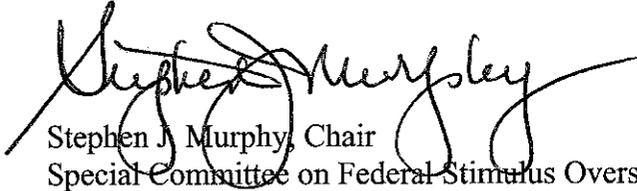
Docket #0549 was sponsored by Mayor Menino and referred to the Committee on Public Safety on April 15, 2009.

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

Docket #0723

**FY09 Boston Police Department
“Homicide Unit Gang-Related Victim Services Project”**

Grant Program: FY2009 Edward J. Byrne Memorial Justice Assistance Grant Program

Funding Agency: MA Executive Office of Public Safety & Security

Amount: \$17,064.33 **Match:** \$0.00

Budget Items: Consultants/Contracts – Full-time Homicide Survivor/Witness Victim Advocate in the Homicide Unit.

Area Service: Citywide

Purpose of the Grant:

A Survivor/Witness Advocate is a trained crisis-intervention professional who assists a survivor from shortly after a homicide occurs, whether it is solved or unsolved. The Advocate also offers referrals, develop safety plans, and locate resources for individuals in need of social services. She provides emotional support and information concerning the investigation and, in the event of an arrest and criminal prosecution, the criminal court process. This position requires strong interpersonal skills, knowledge of various local social service providers, and thorough understanding of the criminal justice process.

The Advocate maintains a central file on available resources for the bereaved and has specially designed resource handouts that are distributed to family representatives on every case. These brochures include the names and contact information for lead investigators assigned, as well as the names and contact information to the SCDAO, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Office of the Attorney General, Criminal History Systems Board, Massachusetts Office of Victim Assistance, and US Attorney’s Office Victim Assistance Program. Additionally, the Advocate distributes a current list of contact information for the Living After Murder Program (LAMP), Cambridge Health Alliance (Center for Homicide Bereavement), the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute, the Good Grief Program, the Victims of Violence Program, and many other non-profit or hospital based trauma and bereavement services. The Homicide Advocate plays an especially valuable role for families of long unsolved cases who seek affirmation that the Police are still actively interested in the solving the case and aiding the family.

Given the large proportion of gang-related homicides among youth, she also tracks current resources related to violence prevention, employment and education services, and housing for high-risk witnesses. Finally, the Advocate works with the community, and specifically the city’s homicide survivor groups and key stakeholder groups, to spread awareness of her position, develop trust, promote cooperation, and provide an additional line of communication to the BPD. By thoroughly engaging the survivor community, we believe we may be able to deter some of the city’s gang related violence

Future:

We anticipate renewed funding for subsequent years.

**CITY OF BOSTON
IN CITY COUNCIL**

**AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF BOSTON TO ACCEPT AND
EXPEND THE BYRNE JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT FUNDS
AWARDED BY THE MASSACHUSETTS EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
PUBLIC SAFETY**

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 the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, Executive Office of Public Safety, not to exceed the amount of Seventeen Thousand Sixty Four Dollars (\$17,064.00).

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



**WILLIAM F. SINNOTT SPN
CORPORATION COUNSEL**



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 a grant in the amount of \$17,064.00 from the Executive Office of Public Safety. This award is made for the purpose of funding the Boston Police Department Homicide Unit's Victim Services Advocate.

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 they were granted.

Sincerely,

Thomas M. Menino
Mayor of Boston