



Boston City Council
Committee on Public Safety
Stephen J. Murphy, Chair

December 8, 2010

Dear Councillors:

The Boston City Council's Committee on Public Safety to which was referred on October 27, 2010 and November 17, 2010:

Docket # 1479 - Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend a grant of \$96,250.00 from the Mass Dept. of Mental Health under the FY 2011-FY2012 Jail Diversion Program Grant.

Docket # 1545 - Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend a grant of One Million Six Hundred Fifty Thousand Dollars from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Public Safety's Senator Charles E. Shannon, Jr. Community Safety Initiative Grant, for the purpose of supporting strategies to address youth, gang and gun violence.

Docket # 1549 - Message and order authorizing the Police Commissioner to accept and expend the FY 2011 Funds to Increase Crash Reporting to Enhance Highway Safety Planning and Programming grant of \$287,500.00 from the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security used to identify a sustainable, cost-effective process for transmitting crash reports to the Registry of Motor Vehicles in a timely fashion.

Docket # 1550 - Message and order authorizing the Mayor to accept and expend the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Federal FY 2007 Citizen Corp Program grant of \$13,800.00 to coordinate the involvement of community members and organizations in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery.

Docket # 1551 - Message and order authorizing the City to accept and expend a grant of \$16,200.00 from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), Citizen Corps Program (CCP) to coordinate the involvement of community members and organizations in emergency preparedness, planning, mitigation, response and recovery.

having considered the same, **I respectfully recommend that these matters ought to pass.**

Stephen J. Murphy, Chair
Committee on Public Safety

DMH FY2010 Police-Based Jail Diversion Program

Grant Program: Police-Based Jail Diversion Program

Funding Agency: Massachusetts Department of Mental Health

Amount: \$96,250.00

Budget Items: **Contracts:** Subcontract with BEST to provide a part-time clinician to be housed in BPD District B-2 station and necessary supplies, as well as a Program Director/Manager (**\$93,537.41**)
Indirect: 2.9% administrative fee, City of Boston (**\$2,712.59**)

Funding Period: 10/1/2010 – 6/30/2012

Description (Abstract):

In 2009, the Boston Police Department (BPD) received more than 20,000 calls for service involving emotionally disturbed persons (EDPs) throughout the city, and officers were involved in more than 850 mental-health-related incidents. However, there has been no clearly defined mechanism by which officers can refer mentally ill individuals to appropriate services. The proposed model seeks to team Boston police officers with the Boston Medical Center's Boston Emergency Services Team (BEST) when responding to persons with mental illness. This collaboration will provide a dedicated clinician to spend a portion of his/her time assisting police with responses in District B2, as well as providing assistance to the Street Outreach Team (SOT), which works with homeless individuals citywide.

Our aim is to have the clinician serve as a direct resource for B2 officers in responding to EDPs in the community. The clinician will be called directly to the scenes in which these individuals are encountered (at the discretion and upon the request of the officers involved). This will provide officers with more alternatives to arrest in these incidents, and reduce the likelihood of incidents escalating to the point where arrest becomes necessary. In those situations where the clinician is unable to respond at the scene, he/she will follow up by paying a visit to the individual's home (assuming consent is given by the person in question at the time of the incident).

The role of the new clinician with respect to the SOT will likely be slightly different. Naturally, if the Team needs assistance with an EDP out in the field while the clinician is working, they will call him or her. However, the greatest assistance that the clinician can provide to the Team is in taking responsibility for follow-up and referrals. This type of work is currently a large burden for the SOT, and it reduces the amount of time they can be out on the street interacting with community members. Therefore, while the clinician is at the station, it will be immensely helpful to have this person oversee referrals and follow-up of EDPs as appropriate.

Finally, the new clinician will be a member of the Boston Police team. While technically an employee of BEST and able to carry out the important functions that are exclusively the domain of Emergency Services Programs (ESPs) in Massachusetts (e.g., having the standing to directly hospitalize individuals insured by Mass Health and other public payers), this clinician's duties will be entirely separate from the rest of BEST's work. For example, this clinician will not respond to any situations unless requested by the Boston police. However, BEST will still be responsible for providing clinical supervision of the clinician and will also provide any needed professional support.

Future Funding: One-time award.