

The Committee on Government Operations, Public Safety & Public Service met on Thursday, May 13, 2021 at 6pm remotely through the Zoom web application.

Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael Mclaughlin, Jimmy Tri Le and Richard Dell Isola.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Michael Mclaughlin: That the CFO give a full detailed breakdown of all cares act funding that has been requested and received since March of 2020 and for all e-mails between all departments including the School Department and the CFO around any discussion on funding related to the COVID-19 pandemic cost.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney and Chief Financial Officer Eric Demas were also present.

Councilor Capone stated that he was looking to see what the City had received for State and Federal Funds for COVID related issues and what has been expended to date. Councilor Mclaughlin noted that he has been working with Mr. Demas and was getting a better understanding of what was asked for and what was received. Mr. Demas explained the funding sources as the State Cares Act and Federal Stimulus funding as well as Federal emergency orders. He expressed his frustration that the Federal guidance on the disbursement of funds had changed approximately seventeen times with President Biden making a number of changes when he took office that increased the FEMA reimbursement from 75% to 100%. He informed the Committee that the City had originally received \$4,133,302 from the State Cares Act but that the Mayor had requested an additional \$3 million which the City wound up receiving bringing the Cares Act total to \$7,321,492. He stated that of that amount \$4,447,879 had been spent to date with \$2,873,613 remaining unspent but explained that if there was any balance left after December 31st, 2021 the remaining funds would be returned to the State. He noted that \$1,500,000 of the spent funds went to ABCD to provide rental & mortgage assistance for Everett residents. He explained further that of the money spent \$1,295,000 went to the Schools, \$1,652,000 went to the City and \$1,500,000 to ABCD for rent and mortgage assistance. He rattled off where the funding was spent for City and Schools and agreed to provide the City Council with an Excel spreadsheet with all the relative information on funds received and expended. He referenced the City's receipt of a FEMA vaccination grant, CBDG grant and direct funding to the Schools from the ACER Funds that were expected to total \$20,500,000. Councilor Mclaughlin stated that the information provided to the Committee was very helpful. Mr. Demas responded that the City was very fortunate, but acknowledged that there would be many more conversations like this on future funds. Councilor Capone asked if the City had been reimbursed for any expenditures it made in anticipation of the funding. Mr. Demas mentioned that only the All Cares Act funding had been received by the City and that any reimbursement from FEMA could take a while. Councilor Capone asked if there was any potential risk in the City not receiving reimbursement from FEMA and Mr. Demas responded that it's always a possibility but felt that the risk was quite minimal. Councilor Capone thanked Mr. Demas for all the work he has been doing on this. Councilor Dell Isola echoed the comments and stated that Mr. Demas was doing an A+ job on this. Councilor Mclaughlin suggested granting further time to allow the members an opportunity to review the Excel spreadsheet Mr. Demas agreed to provide to determine if any other questions needed to be addressed.

The Committee voted 3-1 with Councilor Le in opposition: To grant further time.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
Clerk of Committees

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Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael Mclaughlin, Jimmy Tri Le and Richard Dell Isola.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Michael Mclaughlin: That a fine be issued to individuals for having vehicles that make unnecessary altered noise.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney was also present.

Ms. Deveney referenced a previous meeting on the subject matter in which Traffic Commission Chairman and Police Sergeant Joe Gaff informed the Committee that pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 90, Section 16 the Police can stop vehicles with an altered exhaust and fine them \$200 which he assured was being strictly enforced. Councilor Mclaughlin remarked that it was definitely an issue of concern and a burden on everyone in the community. He requested that the matter be referred to Ms. Deveney so that he could work with her on this issue.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to the Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney so that Councilor Mclaughlin could work with her on this issue..

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Members present were Councilor Stephanie Martins, presiding and Councilors Michael Mclaughlin, Jimmy Tri Le and Richard Dell Isola.

The Committee considered a Resolution offered by Councilor Michael Mclaughlin: That a representative of Mass DOT appear at this meeting to discuss traffic congestion at Santilli highway, Sweetser Circle, Route 99 and Revere Beach Parkway.

Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney was also present.

Councilor Mclaughlin expressed his displeasure that no one from Mass DOT was present and asked if anyone was invited. The Clerk responded that he had no documentation to indicate whether a representative of Mass DOT was invited or not. Councilor Mclaughlin requested that the matter be referred to Ms Deveney so he could work on the subject matter with her and the appropriate State officials.

The Committee voted: To report back to the City Council with a recommendation to refer to the Mayor's Chief of Staff Erin Deveney so that Councilor Mclaughlin could work with her on this issue.

Respectfully Submitted,

John W. Burley
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