



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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June 29, 2021

Michael D. Hurley
Office of the Clerk of the Senate
State House Room 335

Steven T. James
Office of the Clerk of the House
State House Room 145

Dear Clerks Hurley and James,

In accordance with certain provisions of Chapter 227 of the Acts of 2020 (Chapter 227), the FY21 Budget, the Department of Public Health (the Department) is required to report to the legislature by July 1, 2021 on the allocation of funding consistent with Section 102 and line item 4512-2020 of Chapter 227. Section 102 of Chapter 227 requires the Department to detail how the COVID-19 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors' Safety Trust Funds were used and the programs that benefited from them. Line item 4512-2020 requires the Department to provide a list of municipalities and a description of the reforms that were implemented in each municipality that received a grant through the Municipal Public Safety matching grant program. The Department does not object to these reports, but due to the timing of Chapter 227, the Department is unable to submit entirely responsive reports at this time and will follow up with fully responsive reports no later than August 31, 2021.

The Department is currently working with the Executive Office of Health and Human Services and the Executive Office of Public Safety and Security to process grant awards for the COVID-19 Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault Survivors' Safety Trust Fund, Section 102 of Chapter 227. Once processed, these grants will be awarded to local public safety organizations.

With respect to the Municipal Public Safety reform matching grants, line item 4512-2020, the Department has conducted a robust stakeholder engagement process to inform development of the competitive procurement and has a request for response (RFR) out. This engagement process included a total of four listening sessions in April 2021, to help inform the development of the RFR. Two listening sessions were for first responders and two were for community-based organizations (CBOs). The first responder sessions were primarily attended by deputy chiefs of municipal police departments and social service program staff embedded within police departments. The community-based organization sessions were attended by groups that represent substance abuse, gun violence prevention programs, and mental health response staff. The listening sessions were focused on two overarching questions; "what does a

public health approach to public safety look like?” and, “what supports are needed for public safety?” The RFR was released to the public on June 23, 2021. In accordance with line item 4512-2020, the Department will report to the legislature the list of municipalities that receive funding, the amount of funding received, and the reforms that municipalities will work toward implementing.

Thank you in advance for your assistance with placing this letter in the record.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Margret Cooke". The script is cursive and fluid.

Margret Cooke
Acting Commissioner
Department of Public Health