

**MINUTES – PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
**February 18, 2021**

The Standing Committee on Ordinances and Rules was called to order at 6:30p.m. by Councilor Nicastro with Councilors Cruise, Eaniri, and Nicastro present.

Agenda read into the record.

The Committee first considered the following:

1. Resolved: To invite Ms. Michelle St. James, JD, Grant writer for the Brockton Police Department, to appear before the standing committee on Public Safety, to discuss the various grants and other funding obtained to address city issues, including without limitation, crime prevention, youth services, gang violence, and traffic safety, and in particular, to forecast the funding that will be available for such programs and endeavors in FY 22.

Comments by Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator Brockton Police Department (2018, grant committee, consider what grants worked and didn't work, goal to increase partnerships, apply for more grants, has gotten rid of outside contractors as certain jobs Michelle is able to do so funds are available for programs like Shannon, always looking for new grants, grants listed each week, Michelle looks at them and considers them for needs and discussions with the committee, the grants are brought to the committee and factors are reviewed, i.e. specific types "law enforcement hooks", lot of grants they just can't apply for, look to see who will be helped and if the strategy will be met, look to see if there is a match requirement, discussions with chief and finance committee, then looks at capacity of department to see if the services can be provided despite being understaff, looks to partner with groups in the community, victim assistance grant able to partner, needs to make sure they aren't duplicating program, need to collaborate not duplicate, always looking for equipment grants, ex. \$40,000 for radios,

looking for funding to keep programs going, youth/vulnerable populations, lucky to have Shannon grant for direct services to youth, police outreach to youth to build trust, want to do something with elder population, applied for a grant last year for this and heartbroken when they did not receive the grant, looking for initiatives for homelessness but not a lot of grants which fit police involvement, 22 grants managed inhouse by Michelle, need to make sure they can manage the compliance and reporting of the grants, transparent, partners at the State level, forecasting: grants have been replaced, traffic enforcement example which opened the grant to all municipalities with 40,000 or more people for traffic enforcement and equipment, went from \$80,000 to \$40,000 with no warning so forecasting is tough, Shannon funding needed to be level funded (which is a calendar year grant), these needs to be above and beyond the budget, already have Shannon partners, in the summer will be out community requests for proposal to see what community programs are available, Shannon money is limited, need to have a violence intervention program which is Safe Corners, training available)

Comments by Councilor Nicastro

(re planning for grants and how does the department determine its focus)

Comments by Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator Brockton Police Department

(police is a natural link between citizens and resources in the City, Brockton Link-Up as a wheel, on the lookout for grants, looking for targeting adolescence girls because of risks, looking to target elderly, need the resources to do this, looking for grants to help link the vulnerable population in the city as well as things that help them run the department, like equipment, needed to have a clinician for the Shannon program to fill their biggest cap, help from research partner at Bridgewater University, focus on child passenger safety, need is great, partnered with Toyota, if anyone sees a partner or a potential grant, reach out to Michelle they are always opened to suggestions)

Comments by Councilor Nicastro

(re grants that didn't work out, enjoys attending Shannon quarterly meetings)

Comments by Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator Brockton Police Department

(went for 6 federal grants and got 3, you get an evaluation as to why you didn't get it, need to figure out ways to show sustainability without funding, Shannon partners that didn't work out, state reporting, has to fit the grant fund goals, had to work around Covid to get the programming to the kids)

Comments by Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator Brockton Police Department

(275 reported, much more than that, partners go above and beyond, for example food security, in 2019 it was 791 directly served by Shannon, Covid impact on numbers, teen center with anti-violence circular, creative program,)

Comments by Councilor Cruise

(re grassroots organizations, track record for grant applications, the City wants to work with these groups but the level of reporting has requirements, penalties to not reporting correctly)

Comments by Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator Brockton Police Department  
(makes it difficult with Shannon requirements to meet reporting thresholds, in-kind match required which can be difficult for grassroots organizations, Partners will work with the grassroots organizations, money not used goes back)

Comments by Councilor Cruise  
(re cops hiring grant, great to have a team working on this)

Comments by Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator Brockton Police Department  
(turned down because there were budgeted positions not filled, does let Mayor's office and school department know about grants)

Comments by Councilor Eaniri  
(thanks Michelle for all she does, equipment needs)

Comments by Councilor Mendes  
(enjoyable to learn about the programs in the City, questions re Shannon reporting and progress for 2020 data)

Comments by Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator Brockton Police Department  
(data has been submitted, can look into getting that information)

Comments by Councilor Mendes  
(re noise machines for noise ordinances)

Comments by Michelle St. James, Grant Coordinator Brockton Police Department  
(on their radar, will be discussing to look at grants for that)

Comments by Councilor Nicastro  
(thanks Michelle for attending and sharing the information)

Motion to Recommend FAVORABLE by Councilor Cruise, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried unanimously.

Motion to adjourn by Councilor Cruise, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Councilor Eaniri. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

