
Annual Report *Fiscal Year 2025*

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Introduction:

The City of Boston Finance Commission is an independent watchdog agency, established by Massachusetts Acts and Resolves of 1909, Chapter 486, Section 17, to monitor the administrative and financial activities of the City of Boston. The Commission reviews all unadvertised contracts over \$50,000 issued by city departments, as well as other documents pertaining to city operations, investigates complaints of potential wrongdoing, undertakes research projects to uncover municipal efficiencies and reports the findings of any irregularities to the Gubernatorial appointed members, the City of Boston Administration and to the public.

The Boston Finance Commission investigates fraud, waste and abuse, promotes transparency and accountability and applies proven good governance and business practices with the focus on acting in the best interest of the taxpayers. To assist in accomplishing this task, the Commission is empowered with subpoena powers, which can be utilized when necessary. The Commission's independence allows it to operate free of political pressures and to focus on policies and procedures that will lead to efficient and responsible governing practices for the City of Boston.

General Information about Boston Finance Commission

Membership

Commission members are appointed by the Governor of Massachusetts for terms of five years. All appointees must have resided in the City of Boston for at least three years at the time of the appointment.

Commission members and their term expiration dates are as follows:

Richard Iannella, Chair (10/09/2029)

Sheriece Perry (8/9/2027)

Mario Nicosia (7/17/2025)

Grace Fey (9/18/2025)

Howard Kahalas (7/28/2026)

Executive Director

Matthew A. Cahill serves as Executive Director of the Finance Commission. Mr. Cahill became the Executive Director of the Finance Commission in 2009.

Budget

The Commission is an independent watchdog agency, funded by the City of Boston. The Finance Commission budget appropriation for Fiscal Year 2025 was \$531,582.00.

Meetings

The Commission convenes often throughout the year. Meetings are public and citizens are encouraged to attend. Meetings are usually held at the Curley Conference Room at 43 Hawkins Street, Boston. In Fiscal Year 2025, Boston Finance Commission held a total of seven virtual and in-person meetings.

Summary of Commission Activity

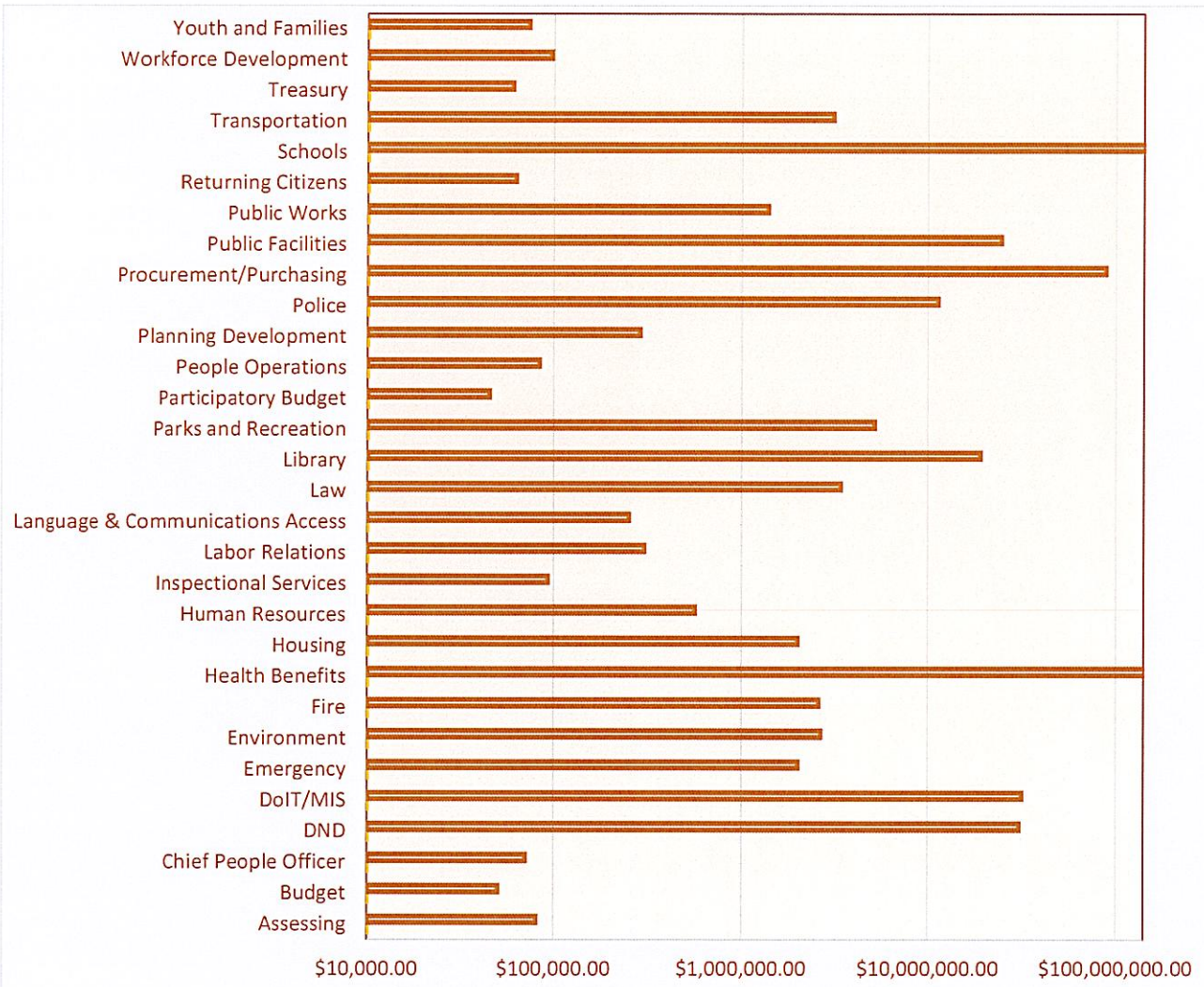
Fiscal Year 2025

Unadvertised Contracts

It is the business of the Finance Commission to review all unadvertised contracts over the \$50,000 dollar value set forth by M.G.L. 30B, to assure Commonwealth of Massachusetts Bidding Law compliance. The review process allows the Commission to consider the need for the services, review the qualifications of the vendor, and monitor the provider's hourly/daily rate and the total cost of the contract.

In Fiscal Year 2025, the Finance Commission reviewed 520 unadvertised contracts issued by various city departments, having a total value of \$1,183,376,606.39. The following chart and graph details contracts reviewed data.

Department	# of Contracts	Total Value
Assessing	1	\$80,000.00
Budget	1	\$49,999.90
Chief People Officer	1	\$70,000.00
DND	44	\$30,374,713.52
DoIT/MIS	85	\$31,401,932.70
Emergency	7	\$1,992,723.82
Environment	3	\$2,648,445.00
Fire	5	\$2,583,390.00
Health Benefits	16	\$669,242,000.00
Housing	8	\$1,987,679.28
Human Resources	2	\$560,000.00
Inspectional Services	1	\$92,112.36
Labor Relations	3	\$300,000.00
Language & Communications Access	2	\$250,000.00
Law	32	\$3,363,777.81
Library	7	\$18,837,500.00
Parks and Recreation	25	\$5,113,764.00
Participatory Budget	1	\$45,000.00
People Operations	1	\$83,000.00
Planning Development	1	\$285,148.23
Police	44	\$11,186,895.43
Procurement/Purchasing	66	\$87,025,000.00
Public Facilities	5	\$24,165,305.89
Public Works	4	\$1,374,200.00
Returning Citizens	1	\$62,268.70
Schools	148	\$286,900,878.75
Transportation	3	\$3,072,021.00
Treasury	1	\$60,000.00
Workforce Development	1	\$95,850.00
Youth and Families	1	\$73,000.00
Total	520	\$1,183,376,606.39



Reports & Activities

The Boston Finance Commission received two requests from City Councilors to review matters:

- The Allston/Brighton Community Center had ceased operation after the doors to the facility were unexpectedly and without notice, locked. The Finance Commission made several site visits and contacted the Department of Youth and Families and were able to assist in the restarting of programs at the facility.

- City Councilor Coletta-Zapata requested that the Finance Commission undertake a review of the building permitting process for a private property located in East Boston. An investigation was undertaken and a report outlining the investigation and findings was created and publicly distributed.

- The office received a complaint that the Three Squares Main Streets, one of several 501c3 organizations that receives grants from the City of Boston, was potentially mismanaging funds. The Finance Commission launched an investigation which uncovered questionable money management and mandatory reporting documentation issues. The city ceased all communication and financial support of Three Squares Main Streets and further investigations by other agencies are pending. A copy of the investigation report can be found on the Finance Commission website: bostonfincomm.com

- A Boston Public Schools employee contacted the office to explain that they had financially challenged students who were required to present birth certificates to participate in school-related programs, however, the student did not have the means to pay the cost to attain the required documentation. the Finance Commission researched the matter and found that no such program exists and wrote a letter to the city to inform them of this challenge to students.

- The office responded to complaints from neighbors in the Allendale Street area of Jamaica Plain that thirteen, large speed humps had been installed on Allendale during the month of December without notice, and that the installations were so large that they were causing a danger to area drivers. The Finance Commission contacted Jascha Franklin-Hodge with the complaint, created a survey and distributed it to neighbors in the area, and held a public

hearing regarding the matter. The speed humps were removed. The Finance Commission created a report on the matter which can be found on the website www.BostonFinComm.com.

- The office audited a book purchasing contract between the Boston Public Schools and a vendor. Concerns were found regarding the costs of some of the books and the delivery charges. A report was created regarding the matter.

- Several matters that the Finance Commission reviewed and are still under investigation are:

- City-owned properties 43 Hawkins Street and the Nazzaro Center.
- Tax abatement filings
- School building closings, mergers and the associated surplus property
- Bike and bus lane installations city-wide

Matthew A. Cahill



Executive Director