

Boston Municipal Court Administrative Order 01-21: Police Powers of Court Officers at Temporary Community Response Session

As Chief Justice of the Boston Municipal Court Department (“BMC”), I hereby issue the following Administrative Order under the authority delegated to me on October 28, 2021 by the Chief Justice of the Trial Court pursuant to G.L. c. 211B, § 9 (xviii), and pursuant to my authority under G.L. c. 211B, § 10; G.L. c. 218, § 38; and G.L. c. 220, § 5:

Pursuant to G.L. c. 220, §5, “[i]f it is unsafe or inexpedient to hold a court at the time and place appointed, a justice of the court may appoint another time and place within the same county for holding the same.” Due to the ongoing public health and humanitarian crisis in the vicinity of Massachusetts Avenue and Melnea Cass Boulevard in the City of Boston, it is both unsafe and inexpedient to transport individuals temporarily located in that area who must appear in court and may also be in need of immediate medical attention, to a permanent division of the BMC. Furthermore, G.L. c. 221, § 70A provides that appointed court officers of the Trial Court assigned to the BMC “may perform police duties and have police powers in or about the areas of the court to which they have been assigned when so designated by the chief justice of the trial court . . .”. Thus, under the authority delegated to me by the Chief Justice of the Trial Court pursuant to G.L. c. 211B, § 9 (xviii) to expedite the judicial business of the Trial Court, I hereby order that, throughout any day during which a BMC session is being held in the designated Community Response Session of the Suffolk County House of Correction pursuant to G.L. c. 220, § 5, any court officer assigned to that session shall have the same police duties and powers established by G.L. c. 221, § 70A as if the session were being held in a permanent division of the BMC.

This Order is effective November 1, 2021 and shall remain in effect until further order of this Court.



Hon. Roberto Ronquillo, Jr.
Chief Justice of the Boston Municipal Court
Promulgated:10/30/2021