TO: MBTA Board of Directors

FROM: John Martin
Chief Legal Counsel

DATE: November 19, 2026

SUBJECT: Temporary Transit Police Authorization

MEMORANDUM:

MBTA TPD Chief Kenneth Green and Superintendent Sullivan have notified the General Manager of their intent to retire effective December 1, 2026, with their last day occurring on November 30, 2026. The General Manager will be releasing a statement announcing their impending retirement in the next few days. To maintain continuity, the General Manager will name Deputy Superintendent John Donahue as interim Chief, while the MBTA conducts a wide-ranging search for a new permanent Chief.

Pursuant to Chapter 664 of the Acts of 1968 (as amended), the MBTA needs the Board's approval to authorize someone not the Chief to "act in [the Chief's] stead." Such authorization will terminate upon the appointment of a permanent Chief, or such time as determined by the MBTA. One "act" that requires the authority of the Chief is swearing in new recruits, which will occur in December of 2026.

Accordingly, the following authorization has been included in the consent agenda for the November Board meeting:

VOTED:

To authorize Transit Police interim Superintendent John Donahue to act in the stead of the Chief of Police of the Transit Police Department, pursuant to Section 2 of Chapter 664 of the Acts of 1968 (as amended), until a new Chief of Police is appointed, or such time as determined by the MBTA .

Any questions should be directed to the General Manager or the Chief Legal Counsel.