



CITY OF CHICAGO

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL-ROOM 200  
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ALDERMAN JASON C. ERVIN  
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT  
JULY 2023

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Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City Council Rules of Order, the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations (CBGO) submits the following Monthly Rule 45 Report for JULY 2023.

**Date, Time & Location of Meeting:** On July 18, 2023, at 2:00 P.M., the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations held a meeting in City Hall, Council Chamber, 121 N. LaSalle Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**Attendance:** The following members were present: Chairman Ervin (28), Vice-Chairman Lee (11), La Spata (1), Dowell (3), Yancy (5), Mitchell (7), Harris (8), Ramirez (12), Quinn (13), Lopez (15), Moore (17), O'Shea (19), Rodriguez (22), Scott (24), Sigcho-Lopez (25), Burnett (27), Taliaferro (29), Cardona (31), Rodriguez-Sanchez (33), Conway (34), Ramirez-Rosa (35), Villegas (36), Sposato (38), Nugent (39), Vasquez (40), Napolitano (41), Knudsen (43), Martin (47), Hadden (49) and Silverstein (50).

The following members were absent: Robinson (4), Mosley (21), Mitts (37) and Reilly (42).

The following non-member was present: Coleman (16).

Internal witnesses present were: Mary Richardson-Lowry, Corporation Counsel, Department of Law, Kristen Cabanban, Director of Public Affairs, Department of Law, Amy Crawford, First Assistant Corporation Counsel, Department of Law, Mark Seigel, Assistant Corporation Counsel, Department of Law, Annette Guzman, Budget Director, Office of Budget Management, Kevin Murphy, Deputy Director, Compensation Unit, Office of Budget Management, Jennifer Johnson Washington, First Deputy Commissioner, Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) and Michael Howlett, Legislative Aide, Legislation Reference Bureau.

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations addressed the following items:

- 1. Approval of the July 2023 Monthly Rule 45 Report for the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations**

2. **Appointment of Mary Richardson-Lowry as Corporation Counsel, City of Chicago. (A2023-0001255)**
3. **An ordinance updating the Municipal Code regarding references to the City Council Committee on Public Safety. (O2023-0003015/0003063)**
4. **A communication recommending a proposed ordinance concerning an Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2023 amendment within Fund 925 for the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Department of Family and Support Services and Department of Transportation. (SO2023-0001357)**
5. **A resolution amending the Salary Resolution regarding Chicago Police Department lateral and rehire agreement, health benefits, salary adjustments and salary schedule IT. (R2023-0003064)**
6. **A communication recommending a proposed ordinance concerning a Transfer of Funds within Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy for Year 2023. (O2023-0003010)**

Chairman Ervin called the meeting to order, took roll call and observed a quorum was present. He then opened the floor for public comments, explained public comment procedure before recognizing the one below named public speaker:

- George Blakemore: spoke on Item#1—Appointment of Mary Richardson-Lowry

Chairman Ervin concluded the public comment period and next moved to Item #1 of the agenda, approval of the Rule 45 Reports of the Joint Committee on Budget and Government Operations and Immigrant and Refugee Rights meeting held April 28, 2023, and the Committee on Budget and Government Operations meetings held May 9, 2023, and June 20, 2023, which reports were transmitted electronically to the Membership. The Chair asked if there were any requests for discussion. Hearing no such requests, Alderman Martin moved to approve the reports. A vote was taken and the reports were approved by the same roll call vote used to establish a quorum.

The Chair then moved to Item #2 of the agenda, the appointment of Mary Richardson-Lowry, to Corporation Counsel, City of Chicago. He then introduced Mary Richardson-Lowry, who provided information on her background and qualifications. Chairman Ervin opened the floor for questions/comments. Aldermen Moore was recognized and acknowledged his support of the appointment. He further stated that over the past few years there was discussion about the council having their own legal counsel. What are your thoughts on that? Or do you think, in the position you are serving in, can your office serve both the executive office as well as the legislative body. Richardson-Lowry replied, during my decades I've never seen that occur and never seen it work well. I do understand the basis for it. I would like to bring closure to the animus and discord between Law and this body, which I'll do by how I engage with you. We have extraordinary talent in the Law Department, and I would like to ensure you have access to that talent. I think that creating two groups of lawyers going at each other would not solve problems but create more. Alderman Moore continued from a procurement standpoint: contracts, percentages, MBE/WBE, when you reach a certain level of money that you no longer qualify. When we bring up these issues, they say legally we can't do that, we will be sued. We haven't made a lot of traction in terms of percentages, especially African Americans from a contracting standpoint. Based on your knowledge, how can we overcome that? Richardson-Lowry replied that the Law Department is not the policy making body, but we are here to support or ask and answer questions around legal parameters relative to compliance. I will continue to work with the operational departments to see what can be done

within the bounds of the law. Alderman Moore, referenced lastly, what is it that you would like to achieve during your time here? Richardson-Lowry replied, my objective is to do good, in an informed way, support those that need to be supported, to improve upon our processes, help the operational departments to deliver on the work they are charged with and stand with the Mayor when asked on legal issues that will help him in executing his charge. I'm here to serve.

The Chairman recognized Alderman Lopez who stated he looks forward to having a working relationship with the Law Department and I am happy you are going to take a different tone. There are some things I would like you to be aware of, the number of outside counsels being utilized to deal with lawsuits, settlements, and judgements as it relates to our police department. We have seen and heard examples where we are being proposed settlements because the work is too great for our Law Department or outside counsels to do. That's a disservice to both our police department and taxpayers. Additionally, troubled buildings and vacant lots, we need to do a better job with streamlining our efforts with S&S and the ward offices, we are constantly trying to identify ownership which causes an inordinate amount of time to provide the services and improve quality of life for those residents living in the neighborhood. Lastly, great efforts have been made to make a user-friendly list when it comes to the bad actors of our renters, landlords; it would be helpful when we are dealing with aspects of the troubled building ordinance that pertain to gang, drug, and prostitution activity.

Chairman Ervin acknowledged Alderman Burnett who congratulated and commended the Mayor on his appointment. I would like to get your opinion on a resolution I introduced to the Governor, President, and the Speaker in reference to utilizing TIF dollars for public safety, areas where the police need assistance. If you can look into that and provide your opinion, I would appreciate it. I look forward to working with you. Richardson-Lowry replied to both Lopez and Burnett, I've already asked some of the operational departments to meet with me and start thinking about how we can work collectively towards helping you to meet your charge. We are in the informative stage. We will likely define some pilot programs and projects around that as we learn some of the issues you are confronting today. I will be reaching out to many of you individually to have a better sense of the specific issues within your wards.

The Chair recognized Alderman Hadden who requested a briefing for aldermen to get a broader scope of the department, how it works and how you're hoping to shape it. Richardson-Lowry replied, we have scheduled an orientation for July 26<sup>th</sup>, it is a series of three sessions in which we are going to go over the general parameters, in terms of what we do, where we do it, how we do it, when we do it, why we do it and to give you an opportunity to ask some questions as well. I anticipate from that series of one-on-ones with you to learn specific issues affecting your areas. Alderman Hadden stated that she would like to work with your team regarding issues with building enforcement. I echo Alderman Lopez comments and being able to work with your department a little bit more on solving the problem. I feel there are some limitations to what the city can do and things they haven't done before. I would love to work with your team to explore how the legislative body can help to solve some problems for our Law Department.

Alderman Vasquez asked Richardson-Lowry to share a little bit more about her background/experience with the parking meter deal. Richardson-Lowry clarified that the public-private partnership deal was after her tenure. At the time when there were just women, called meter maids, that went out and issued tickets, there wasn't a formalized contract for allowing that process to take place around the city. I helped get that into a process.

Alderman Vasquez then stated that he appreciates your take on the Department of Law and Council having a working relationship versus outside counsel but would like to have more conversation on that. As Chairman of the Committee on Immigrant and Refugee Rights, what is your experience and thoughts

as far as immigration law when it pertains to the city as well as talking to the federal government. We have things such as work authorization that is a problem. What is your take, seeing the crisis we are currently in. Richardson-Lowry replied that Law is supporting some of the operational departments around this issue. I have spoken to the woman that was chosen to lead this effort. I have ideas on how I can support her in executing her charge. She is going to need the totality of the body of work we can bring, the relevant operation departments. Alderman Vasquez echoed his colleague's remarks regarding troubled buildings and landlords who don't keep up with what they need to. This not only has legislative impact but also budgetary. In closing, what is your take on climate change, building standards, cumulative impact studies, ability for the city to seek litigation from companies who have been profiteering while not helping our environment. Richardson-Lowry answered we are looking at a number of opportunities around climate change. We are going to be engaged in a formalized way. I can offer a separate briefing to discuss what I'm going to do on the citizenry's behalf.

Chairman Ervin identified Alderman O'Shea who commended the Mayor on this appointment. As you know we are short attorneys in the Law Department. How can we make this a more desirable position? What can we do to hire qualified and competent attorneys? How can you achieve that? Lowry answered, we have 37 open attorney slots in the department. This is a wonderful environment to learn one's craft. I am going to ask the aldermanic body for an adjustment with respect to remuneration for the lawyers, cover ARDC fees, provide continuing legal education paid through the department, I want them to have access to the training and professional development that every lawyer out there has. Alderman O'Shea agreed that to attract talent and retain the talent that we have, we must pay them. In addition, we need to have a quality team at full capacity.

Alderman Villegas was then recognized and asked, of the 37 vacancies how many attorneys do we have? Lowry responded we have 358. Alderman Villegas seeing that the Law Department is exempt from minority women business enterprise what's your approach in utilizing African American owned, women owned, veteran owned law firms to help with the city? Lowry responded, it makes a difference when we fail to call on them, there is no shortage of talent, they are embedded in large firms, we are going to examine how we engage them. We must express that inclusion is a lifeblood for us and we expect them to embrace it. We are going to do some informed engagement around that subject and will be expanding the service providers for the department. Alderman Villegas shared his comments on having an outside legislative counsel. Lowry replied she looks forward to having an individual conversation on that subject.

The Chair acknowledged Alderman Dowell who shared her support of the appointment. Additionally, stated several concerns; the amount of money spent on outside counsel is too high and we need to bring that number down; reducing the timeline on troubled building cases and I would like to lift up troubled venues and entertainment venues, those that are not in line with our Zoning Code, how can we address those in a quicker fashion, they wreak havoc on our communities.

Alderman Sigcho Lopez was next recognized and added, my questions are in line with the large number of vacancies. I would like to suggest; reduce the cost of outside counsel and fully staff corporation counsel, in terms of timeline and guideline on how we can be of support. Richardson-Lowry replied, I can't give a firm timeline. I think the help will be asked during the budget cycle. We must look at our numbers on the outside counsel spend and build our talent internally is a business imperative. I can get back to you as I begin to have dialogue with the operational departments and administrative hearings, I think there may be some things we can do to close down some aspects of the timeline. Alderman Sigcho Lopez referenced the transition team recommendations and asked how you see some of the barriers that are systemic and things that are going to take some time to change in terms of having a corporation counsel and a council in general that is more active and more present in our communities. How do you

see some of the issues of policy intertwine? And some of the challenges you see ahead to implement the transition team accommodations? Richardson-Lowry responded, legal area operational shift that some of the transition team presented the Mayor with a lot of robust responses on things that would be helpful and operationalized. I will be sitting with the departments as they digest those recommendations to see what ultimately under the Mayor's leadership can and should be operationalized and what other things might be more aptly characterized as aspirational but were the considerations for some future dates, depending on the facts and circumstances.

The Chairman next recognized Alderman Harris who made a motion to approve the appointment. Hearing no objections, the item was approved by a voice vote. The item passed and was to be reported out for the July 19, 2023, City Council Meeting.

Chairman Ervin moved to Item #3, a communication recommending a proposed ordinance concerning an Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2023 amendment within Fund 925 for the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, Department of Family and Support Services and Department of Transportation. Ald. Yancy made a motion to accept a substitute ordinance on item #3. Hearing no objection, the substitute ordinance was adopted. The Chair recognized Budget Director Guzman, who provided testimony on the substitute ordinance. The Chairman opened the floor for questions and comments.

The Chair first acknowledged Alderman Lopez who asked through the chair, as it relates to the Taste of Chicago, where exactly will that (grant) be going to do the expansion of the program. Budget Director Guzman referred the question to Jennifer Johnson Washington, First Deputy Commissioner, DCASE who provided a breakdown of the \$500,000 grant. Alderman Lopez asked if this is required because of the manner in which we changed the Taste of Chicago? In the past we had sponsors that covered all the cost of this, was there a decline, is it a mixture of both? First Deputy Washington stated that we still secure corporate sponsorship. We are recovering from the pandemic, and we are trying to increase the number of vendors that we engage with and bring more vitality to our communities. Alderman Lopez referenced \$5 Million grant allocation for law enforcement training on the substitute. Latoya Vaughn, Deputy Budget Director, replied that the grant was already received through ordinance, we will check and revise document. Alderman Lopez asked if this is for virtual headsets? Guzman stated that \$374,000 is to purchase virtual simulators and a trailer, \$150,000 are for training supplies, \$4.4 million is for the wireless network at CPD's Academy. Chairman Ervin suggested that we continue with the discussion then recess until tomorrow at 9:30 a.m. with the revised ordinance for passage. The Chair recognized Alderman Hadden who referenced the appropriation for the Police budget, is the amount \$4,972,000.00 or almost \$5 million and where was it coming from? Director Guzman replied that it will go up once we add CPD and that it is coming from the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board (ILETSB). Alderman Dowell requested clarity on how the monies will be used for the emergency and transitional housing. Dr. Kimberly Howard, DFSS replied that it is going to strengthen our existing homeless shelter system, operating cost across all shelters in the city, trying to expand our existing youth dedicated shelters to operate 24/7 and support operations at some shelters that are transitioning to more congregate settings through the Chicago Recovery Plan Investments. Alderman Dowell asked what is the number of additional beds that can be equated to this. Dr. Howard responded this will not be supporting additional beds it's for operations of our existing beds. Alderman Dowell inquired on the number of beds we have. Dr. Howard replied, 3,000 shelter beds on any given night. Alderman Lee asked a follow up question for DFSS, through the chair, which was a breakdown of shelter beds for family shelters and low barrier. Also, what are the biggest needs for improvements in the existing shelters? Dr. Howard replied it was

overnight dedicated shelters to provide 24/7 operations to youth 18 to 24 and transitioning our shelter system from a congregate footprint to a non-congregate footprint.

The Chair then proceeded to Item #4 a resolution amending the Salary Resolution regarding Chicago Police Department lateral and rehire agreement, health benefits, salary adjustments and salary schedule for IT. The Chair again recognized Budget Director Annette Guzman and Deputy Director Kevin Murphy who provided testimony on the resolution. The Chairman opened the floor for questions and comments by the members.

Vice Chair Lee asked about CPD regarding the departmental rehire, new employees hired from other law enforcement agencies to be placed on a relevant salary schedule based on their relevant law enforcement experience. What is it today and what is it changing to? Kevin Murphy responded, lateral rehires, are being recognized for their years of service at those agencies, in terms of the FOP patrol schedule, it is my understanding that they still go through the CPD training. Alderman Conway asked why is this here for direct introduction? Chairman Ervin replied it was presented as a direct introduction; I allowed it for the lateral rehire for the Chicago Police Department. Director Guzman replied as well pointing out an IT modernization initiative and the number of vacancies within the IT infrastructure that need to be filled in order to move forward on those infrastructure projects. In addition, we want this new schedule to be a part of how AIS is developing its budget for FY2024. Alderman Conway inquired on how many are getting rehired. Deputy Director Murphy stated under the rehire agreement; 20 candidates in May and June, 4 in July and we are anticipating 5-10 in future months. Alderman Dowell had a point of information, are these 20 police officers or management types? Deputy Director Murphy answered, any employee returning to a sworn position has to come in at a patrol person level. Alderman Sposato asked if this is a salary restructuring? Deputy Director Murphy responded it allows us to relieve some of the administrative burden. It's recognizing the agreement that already exists between FOP and CPD and allows us to not have to use that administrative burden to make employees wait for approval from the council. Alderman Nugent voiced her support of the resolution. The Chair recognized Alderman Lopez who stated he has an issue with continuing healthcare coverage for people not working for the City of Chicago. If a person is terminated or let go on the 1<sup>st</sup> are taxpayers on the hook for their healthcare for the next 30 days under this ordinance? Guzman replied yes, that is correct but if they are let go at the end of the month then it ends on that day. This is something that is in place across governmental organizations. Alderman Lopez responded, I don't understand the need or justification for it and moved to divide the sections and proceed with section 1, 2 & 4 of the ordinance and hold section 3 for future discussion. The Chair made a motion to divide the sections, all in favor say "aye", all oppose say "no", the no's have it, the motion failed. The Chairman then moved do pass sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 as a whole, all-in favor say "aye", all oppose say "no", hearing only one in opposition, the item passed and was to be reported out for the July 19, 2023, City Council Meeting.

The Chairman moved to Item #5, a communication recommending a proposed ordinance concerning a Transfer of Funds within Committee on Environmental Protection and Energy for Year 2023. The Chair recognized Chairman Hadden, who gave testimony on the ordinance. Alderman Lopez moved do pass, after a vote the item was approved. The item passed.

Chairman Ervin moved to Item #3 and recognized Budget Director Guzman who gave a point of clarification on the ordinance. The \$5 Million or the CPD grant was inadvertently included in the narrative, it is not before you today for approval. Alderman Lopez moved do pass. After a vote, the item passed. The Chairman stated that the committee will not reconvene on this item tomorrow at 9:30 a.m.

Chairman Ervin then proceeded to Item #2, an ordinance updating the Municipal Code regarding references to the City Council Committee on Public Safety. The Chair called Assistant Corporation Counsel Mark Siegel who provided an overview of the said ordinance. Chairman Ervin informed the members that both Chairman Taliaferro and Chairman Hopkins are in support and agreement with the changes for the committee jurisdiction. Alderman Lopez was recognized and asked what pages the two changes are on in the ordinance. Mark Howlett replied Section 2-80-40, section 3, (e) Removal from office, the last reference of police and fire, previously read public safety and the same change was in Section 2-80-90. Alderman Hadden, asked if sponsors were available to speak on the ordinance? Can someone speak on how the administration can use this position? Michael Howlett responded, the changes as part of the rules of order for 2023-2027 term, the previous Committee on Public Safety was separated into two different committees (Public Safety and Police and Fire) and is intended to reflect the respective jurisdictions of those new committees. Chairman Ervin gave further explanation as to why the ordinance came as a direct introduction versus being introduced at the last City Council meeting. Alderman Quinn moved do pass. After a vote, the item passed and was to be reported out for the July 19, 2023, City Council Meeting.

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations having no further business, on motion made by Alderman Harris for adjournment, meeting was adjourned.

*(A video recording of the full meeting with committee members, internal and external experts, as well as any/all public speaking content can be reviewed on the Chicago City Clerk website under Committee Meeting Web Stream Archive dated July 18th.)*

Respectfully submitted by:



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Jason C. Ervin, Chairman  
Committee on the Budget and Government Operations