

Reply to Common Council File No. 011745

From DOA-Budget and Management Division

April 12, 2002

Ref: 02024(04)

Common Council File 011745 contains a resolution authorizing the transfer of one safety supervisor and four safety specialist positions from the Department of Public Works to the Department of Employee Relations.

Safety specialists are responsible for reducing field injuries and worker's compensation claims. Safety specialists provide safety training to field staff and monitor job sites to ensure that proper work procedures are being followed.

While the total cost related to work injuries have increased, cost is related more directly to the severity of an injury and length of time off. As a result of the efforts of the safety specialist, in 2001 DPW field staff experienced fewer injuries than in any year since 1996.

The Safety specialist positions were transferred to the DPW in 1993 to make DPW more directly responsible for employee safety within the department. The Safety specialist positions should remain in DPW because the positions can be more responsive to the needs of DPW and can serve as a constant reminder to crews that safety should come first.

This resolution has no fiscal impact.

RECOMMENDATION: DO NOT ADOPT RESOLUTION #011745

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