

Reply to Common Council File No. 091224
From DOA-Budget and Management Division

February 18, 2010

Ref: 09007

Common Council File Number 091224 contains a resolution appropriating up to \$50,000 from the 2009 Common Council Contingent Fund to the Assessor Office's Operating Expenditures. The additional costs are related to work done by a lawyer in cases involving potential remissions of taxes.

The 2009 Assessor's budget contained \$100,000 for Professional Services, including legal consultations. In early 2009, the Finance and Personnel Committee recommended that the Assessor's Office take more aggressive action against potential litigants seeking remissions against the city. Following through on the Finance and Personnel Committee recommendation resulted in a cost overrun of \$50,000. This transfer will allow the legal consultant to be paid for the work rendered for the city. The consultant efforts resulted in decisions that saved well over \$200,000 in additional potential remissions in 2009, and has allowed a reduction of \$250,000 in the Remissions of Taxes Fund in the 2010 budget. These extra legal expenses have been budgeted for in the 2010 Operating Expenditures category for the Assessor's Office.

RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT COMMON COUNCIL RESOLUTION 091224 THAT APPROPRIATES UP TO \$50,000 FROM THE 2009 COMMON COUNCIL CONTINGENT FUND TO THE ASSESSOR'S OFFICE.



Dennis Yaccarino
Budget and Policy Manager Senior

DY:dmr

FINANCE: 091224sr.doc