



MARINA DIMITRIJEVIC
ALDERWOMAN, 14TH DISTRICT

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

CHAIR

- Finance and Personnel Committee

VICE-CHAIR

- Community and Economic Development
- Steering and Rules

June 18, 2026

To: Common Council Members, Cabinet Members, Department Heads

Re: Preparation for the 2027 Proposed Budget

As the Finance Committee prepares for this year's annual hearings regarding the Mayor's proposed executive budget, the Committee would like to thank you and your staff for the considerable time and effort devoted each year to preparing for these important discussions.

The annual budget hearings serve a critical role in the Committee's review of the proposed executive budget and provide an opportunity for meaningful dialogue regarding departmental operations, fiscal priorities, service delivery, and future challenges.

In recent years, however, the Committee has observed that departmental presentations have grown significantly in length and scope. While the information provided has been valuable, the expanded presentation format has reduced the amount of time available for Committee members to ask questions and engage in substantive discussion regarding budgetary concerns and policy priorities.

In an effort to encourage greater dialogue and ensure that Committee concerns are fully addressed, the Finance Committee will implement several changes to the hearing structure beginning with this year's budget review process.

Under the revised format:

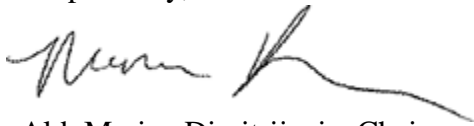
- The Budget Office will continue to provide a brief overview of each department's proposed budget.
- Departments will be asked to limit oral presentations to key highlights, significant operational developments, major budget changes, and critical issues affecting service delivery.
- Departments will be required to submit written presentation materials and supporting information to the Committee in advance of the hearing date.
- To allow more time for questions and discussion between Committee members and department leadership, the combined time for Budget Office and Departmental presentations will be limited to 20 minutes.

The Committee believes these changes will improve the effectiveness of the hearings by fostering a more focused and productive exchange of information while still allowing departments the opportunity to highlight important accomplishments and operational needs.

Additional guidance regarding, submission deadlines and hearing procedures will be distributed by Committee staff in the coming weeks.

We appreciate your cooperation and continued partnership throughout the budget process and look forward to productive discussions during this year's hearings.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marina Dimitrijevic', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Ald. Marina Dimitrijevic, Chair
Finance and Personnel Committee