

City Attorney 2025 Proposed Executive Budget

Mission: To protect the legal interests of the City of Milwaukee and provide quality, timely, and impartial legal services consistent with the highest professional and ethical standards while successfully meeting clients' needs in accordance with the City Charter and statutory requirements



2025 Budget Summary

Description	2024 Adopted Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Amount Change	Percent Change
FTEs – O&M	21.86	60.50	38.64	177%
FTEs - Other	37.14	2.50	-34.64	-93%
FTEs - Total	59	63	4	7%
Total Positions Authorized	64	63	-1	-2%
Salaries & Wages	\$2,000,184	\$5,902,111	\$3,901,927	195%
Fringe Benefits	900,083	2,655,950	1,755,867	195%
Operating Expenditures	393,200	407,200	14,000	4%
Equipment	28,500	26,000	-2,500	-9%
Special Funds	0	0	0	0%
TOTAL	\$3,321,967	\$8,991,261	\$5,669,294	171%
ARPA Salary Allocation	\$3,200,000	0	-\$3,200,000	-
ARPA Fringe Allocations	1,440,000	0	-1,440,000	-
TOTAL + ARPA	\$7,961,967	\$8,991,261	\$1,029,294	13%

Positions & Salaries

Description	2024 Adopted Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Amount Change	Percent Change
FTEs – O&M	21.86	60.50	38.64	177%
FTEs - Other	37.14	2.50	-34.64	-93%
FTEs - Total	59	63	4	7%
Total Positions Authorized	64	63	-1	-2%
Salaries & Wages	\$2,000,184	\$5,902,111	\$3,901,927	195%
ARPA Salary Allocation	3,200,000	0	-3,200,000	-
TOTAL + ARPA	\$5,200,184	\$5,902,111	\$701,927	13%

Operating & Equipment Expenses



Account	2024 Adopted Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Amount Change	Percent Change
Operating Expenditures	\$393,200	\$407,200	\$14,000	4%
Equipment	\$28,500	\$26,000	-\$2,500	-9%

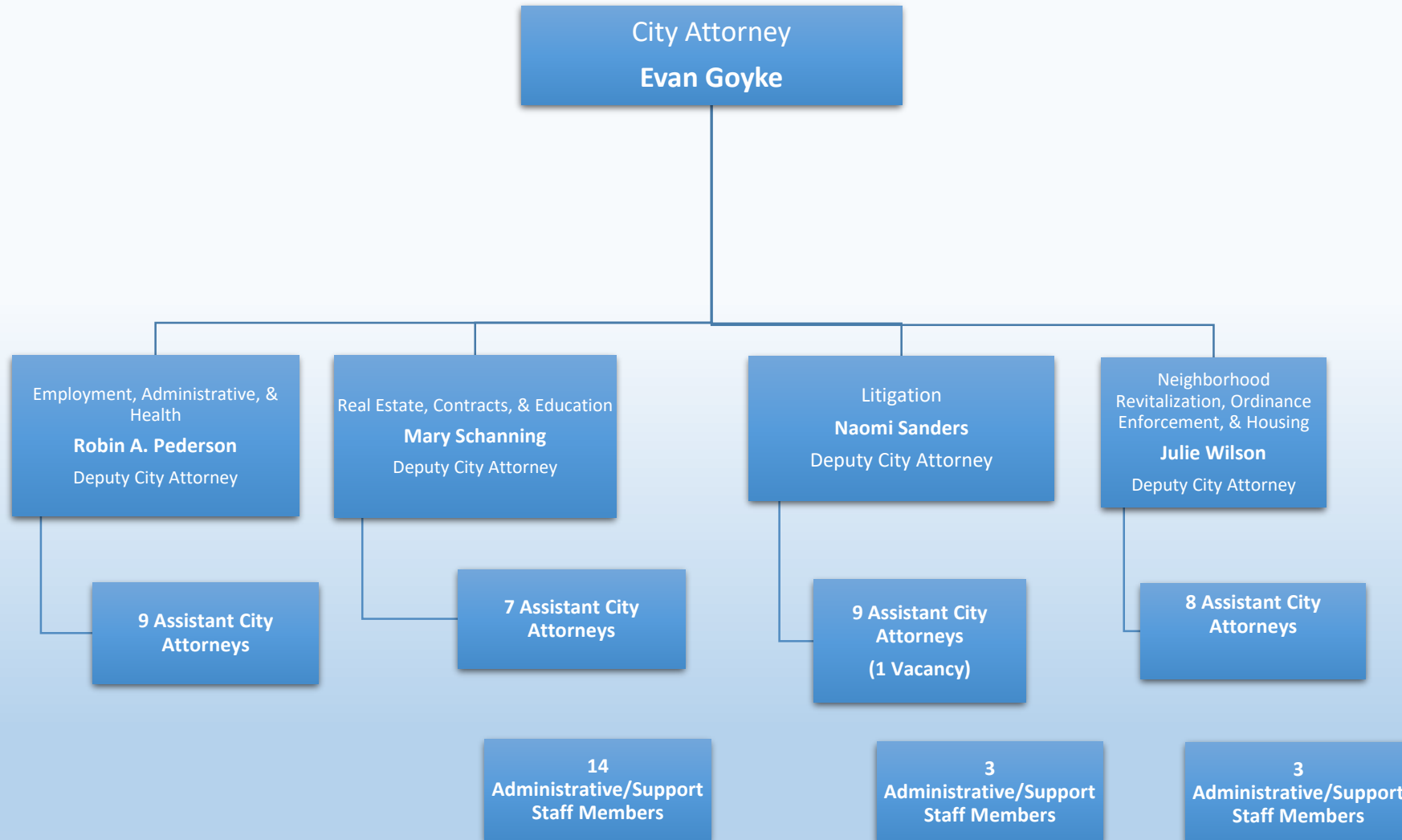
Special Purpose Accounts

Account	2024 Adopted Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Amount Change	Percent Change
Damages and Claims Fund	\$1,900,000	\$2,500,000	\$600,000	32%
Insurance Fund	1,619,389	2,727,967	1,108,578	68%
Outside Counsel/Expert Witness Fund	391,000	245,661	-145,339	-37%
TOTAL	\$3,910,389	\$5,473,628	\$1,563,239	40%

Revenues

Category	2024 Adopted Budget	2025 Proposed Budget	Amount Change	Percent Change
Charges for Services	\$728,000	\$720,000	-\$8,000	-1%
TOTAL	\$728,000	\$720,000	-\$8,000	-1%

Organizational Chart



Key Performance Measures

Indicators	2023 Actual	2024 Projected	2025 Planned
Total Number of State and Federal Court Cases Opened	324	300	300
Total Number of Administrative Cases Pending	261	420	300
Number of Legal Services Assignments Opened	463	270	300
Total Number of State and Federal Court Cases Pending	334	325	325
Total Number of State and Federal Court Cases Closed	398	350	350
Total Claims Opened	573	300	500
Total Claims Closed	502	315	500
Number of Municipal Court Trials Including Building and Zoning	1,054	940	1,000
In Custody Appearances	5,733	5,000	5,500
Hearing Arraignments Including Building and Zoning	53,220	60,000	55,000

Demographics

Category	Female	Male	Total	%
Black	15	3	18	31%
White	18	18	36	61%
Hispanic	4	0	4	7%
Asian	1	0	1	2%
American Indian	0	0	0	0%
Total	38	21	59	
%	64%	36%		100%

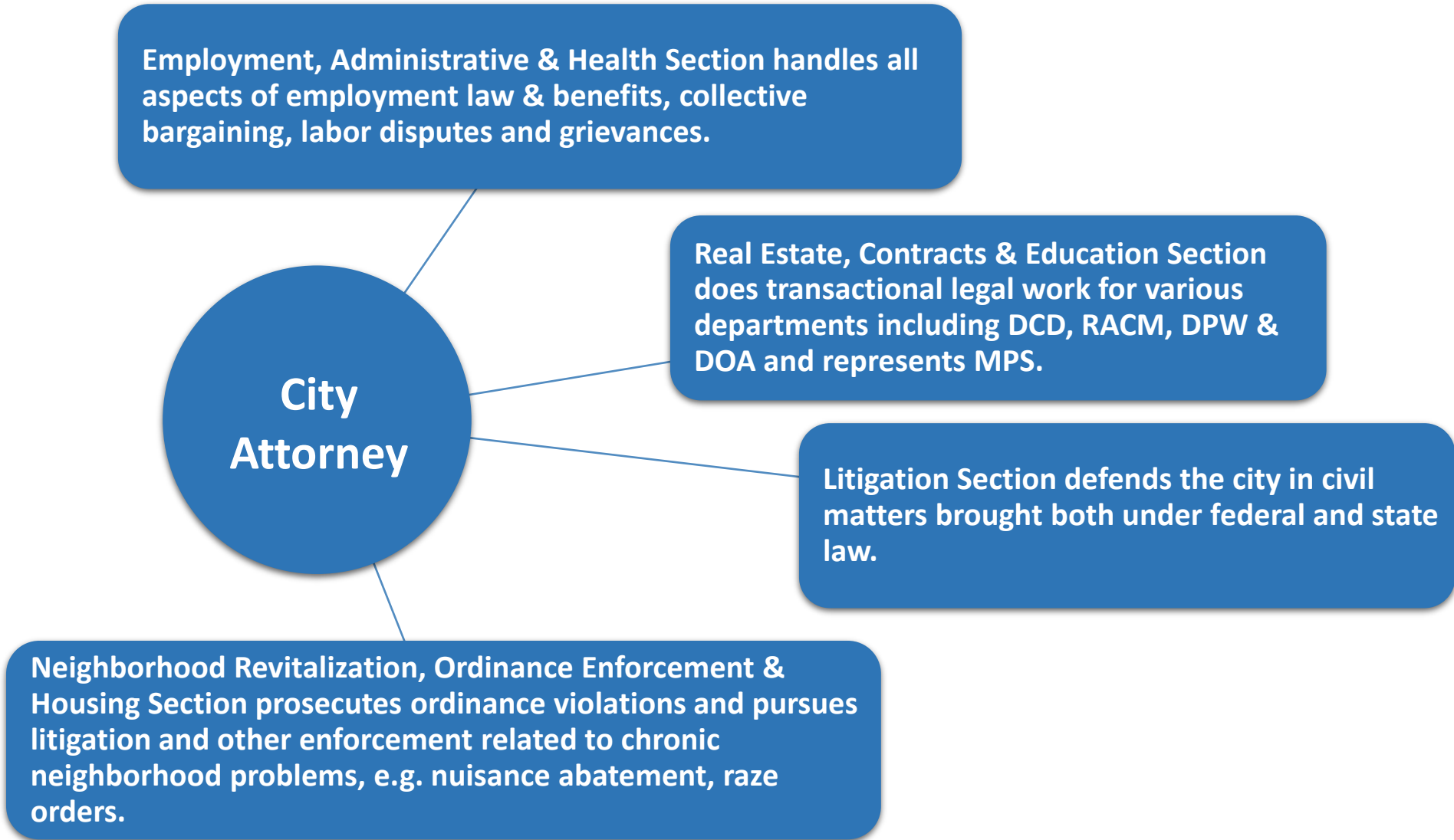
Racial Equity & Inclusion



The City Attorney's Office is pleased to serve the diverse community of the City of Milwaukee by working to ensure our staff reflects the population and workforce that we serve. We have made strides in this area, and in 2025 we look forward to continuing to support the racial equity and inclusion initiative. It is our goal to hire and train a workforce that is as racially and gender diverse as the city we work in. Beyond our direct hiring practices, we will work to proactively address racially disparate conditions in our own city.

We will continue to work with our community partners at Marquette University and the University of Wisconsin to offer internships for minorities and women, which hopefully will lead to interest in and the pursuit of employment with the City Attorney's office. In addition, in 2025, the City Attorney Office will again participate in the Wisconsin State Bar Association's Diversity Clerkship Program, which places law students of diverse backgrounds in law firms throughout the state.

Core Services



2024 Major Highlights

Employment, Administrative & Health Section:

- 102 pending discrimination cases at administrative agencies
- 41 new discrimination complaints, 7 FPC appeals, 4 grievance arbitrations, 2 interest arbitrations, and 1 duty disability retirement appeals filed to date in 2024
- 6 WERC case filed in 2024
- 98 administrative cases assigned to date in 2024
- 111 workers' comp matters pending; 37 in 2024 - City, 20; MBSD, 17
- On-going telephone and in person consultations and assistance in HR matters

2024 Major Highlights Employment, Administrative & Health



ACT 12

- Advised Common Council and City departments regarding analysis, implementation, compliance, and impact of 2023 Wis. Act 12.
- Advised Budget, MPD, MFD, and City Clerk regarding certification of public safety maintenance of efforts under Act 12.
- Opinion regarding effect of Act 12 on voting requirements for budget and new program spending.
- Advised on transition to WRS for new City employees.

2024 Major Highlights Employment, Administrative & Health



- Represented City in successful effort to defeat We Energies' request to Public Service Commission for deferral accounting of forestry work for future inclusion in rates.
- Currently representing City in We Energies rate case
- Provided guidance through federal civil rights compliance matters to secure and assure large dollar federal grants.
- Advised ordinance changes in liquor, vapor products, and licensure in accordance with State law updates.
- Successfully defended FPC 15-day body-worn-camera release policy.
- Provided on-going advice and legal services to ERS, including successful defense against a class claim regarding F&PSF bonuses.

2024 Major Highlights – Real Estate, Contracts & Education Section



Transactional, Advising, and Training:

- Counsel to Milwaukee Public Schools, Board of Zoning Appeals, Redevelopment Authority of the City of Milwaukee, Port of Milwaukee, Historic Preservation Commission, Zoning Code Technical Committee (voting member), and assist multiple City departments with contract drafting and negotiation.

- Provide legal assistance regarding economic and real estate developments, including the creation and amendment of tax incremental financing districts (TIDs):
 - Amending TID 48 (Park East) to donate to TID 74 (North 35th Street & West Capital Drive)
 - Creating TID 118 (100 East National)
 - Creating TID 119 (Midtown Home Ownership Initiative)
 - Creating TID 120 (Kin at Freshwater)
 - Creating TID 121 (Bronzeville Arts & Tech Hub)

- Assisted in the preparation for the RNC. Drafted and negotiated 44 agreements with Wisconsin law enforcement agencies, 10 agreements with Wisconsin fire departments, 5 agreements for in-state tactical emergency medical service agencies and assisted the State of Wisconsin Emergency Management Agency with 24 agreements with other states under EMAC for out of state law enforcement officers from 63 different agencies. Assisted with the drafting of two ordinances specific to the RNC regulating the extraordinary event permitting and establishing prohibited items in the RNC Zones

2024 Major Highlights

Written Opinions of the City Attorney



October 2023 through September 2024

- **27 written opinions**

Common Council	8
Police	6
DNS	2
ERS	2
HACM	2
DCD	2
DOA	1
Assessor	1
City Engineer	1
IRD	1
DPW	1

2024 Major Highlights – Litigation Section



Litigation:

- The City had three notable, and high profile federal trial victories in 2024.
 - First, the CAO successfully defended the City at jury trial against a plaintiff's claims for unlawful stop, and unreasonable detention in the context of investigating a juvenile car jacking ring.
 - Second, CAO successfully defended the City at jury trial against a plaintiff's allegations of unreasonable search and seizure related to a burglary investigation.
 - Third, the CAO successfully defended the City in an injunction hearing, turned into an expedited bench trial on the merits, on two of the three constitutional claims involving the City's RNC permitting scheme.
- Nine cases against various City entities were dismissed on the City's motion (either motions to dismiss or motions for summary judgment), which is the most efficient way to dispose of cases.
- The CAO is currently defending the City in four appeals to the Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals.
- Finally, the CAO settled seven litigation matters for almost \$1,500,000 less than was demanded.

2024 Major Highlights – Litigation Section

Matters in Litigation other than mortgage foreclosure actions:

Category	2022	2023	Thru. 09/07/24
Cases Opened	148	183	121
Cases Closed w/o Payment	133	116	109

2024 Major Highlights – Litigation Section

Mortgage Foreclosure Actions:

Category	2022	2023	Thru. 09/07/24
Cases Opened	128	141	86
Cases Closed	49	212	35
Cases Pending	174	87	146

2024 Major Highlights – Litigation Section



Property Assessment Litigation:

- In 2024, the City Attorney's Office continues to defend the City against a steady number of property assessment cases.
 - As of September 2024, 20 cases moving forward in circuit court.
 - From October 1, 2023 – September 16, 2024, 14 cases resolved.
 - In those closed cases, in aggregate, taxpayers had demanded \$7,238,960.77 in tax refunds and the City paid \$276,522.72 (4% of demands).
 - This includes two settlement recommendations pending Common Council approval.
 - This does not include Rider Hotel (next slide) pending a petition to the Supreme Court.

2024 Major Highlights – Litigation Section



Significant Property Assessment Decisions:

- **Manpower Group Inc. v. City of Milwaukee – (Manpower Global Headquarters)**
 - Tax year 2020: Taxpayer requested **\$1,050,063**. City prevailed at court trial, decision on **May 13, 2024**. Manpower did not appeal.
 - Tax year 2021: Court previously dismissed \$1 million claim.
 - Tax year 2022: Taxpayer requested **\$1,025,693**. Taxpayer voluntarily dismissed case on **July 15, 2024**.
- **Rider Hotel, LLC v. City of Milwaukee – (Iron Horse Hotel)**
 - Tax years 2017-2018: Taxpayer requested **\$211,911.60** at trial.
 - City prevailed at court trial; Appellate court ruled for City on **June 11, 2024**.
 - Taxpayer has petitioned to Wisconsin Supreme Court (pending).

2024 Major Highlights – Neighborhood Revitalization, Ordinance Enforcement & Housing Section

Municipal Court:

Building & Zoning Code Prosecutions:

- 2024: 1,526 (thru 08/31/24)

Health Department Prosecutions:

- 2024: 54 (thru 08/31/24)

Municipal Court Prosecutions:

- 2024: Traffic Cases, 26,217 (thru 08/31/24)
- 2024: Non-Traffic Cases, 4,199 (Adults thru 08/31/24)
- 2024: Non-Traffic Cases, 473 (Juveniles thru 08/31/24)
- 2024: Parking Cases, 538 (thru 08/31/24)

2024 Major Highlights – Neighborhood Revitalization, Ordinance Enforcement & Housing Section



Municipal Court:

OWI Cases Reviewed/Filed:

- 2024: 688 (thru 08/31/24)

Property Returns in Circuit Court

- 2024: 402 (thru 08/31/2024)

2024 Major Highlights – Neighborhood Revitalization, Ordinance Enforcement & Housing Section



Litigation:

- Overcame legal hurdles through both tax foreclosure and appellate proceedings to clear and redevelop the Northridge properties
- Secured order to permit razing of a building damaged by fire in the 7th Aldermanic District
- Obtained an injunction leading to the cessation of operations by a problematic hotel in the 13th Aldermanic District

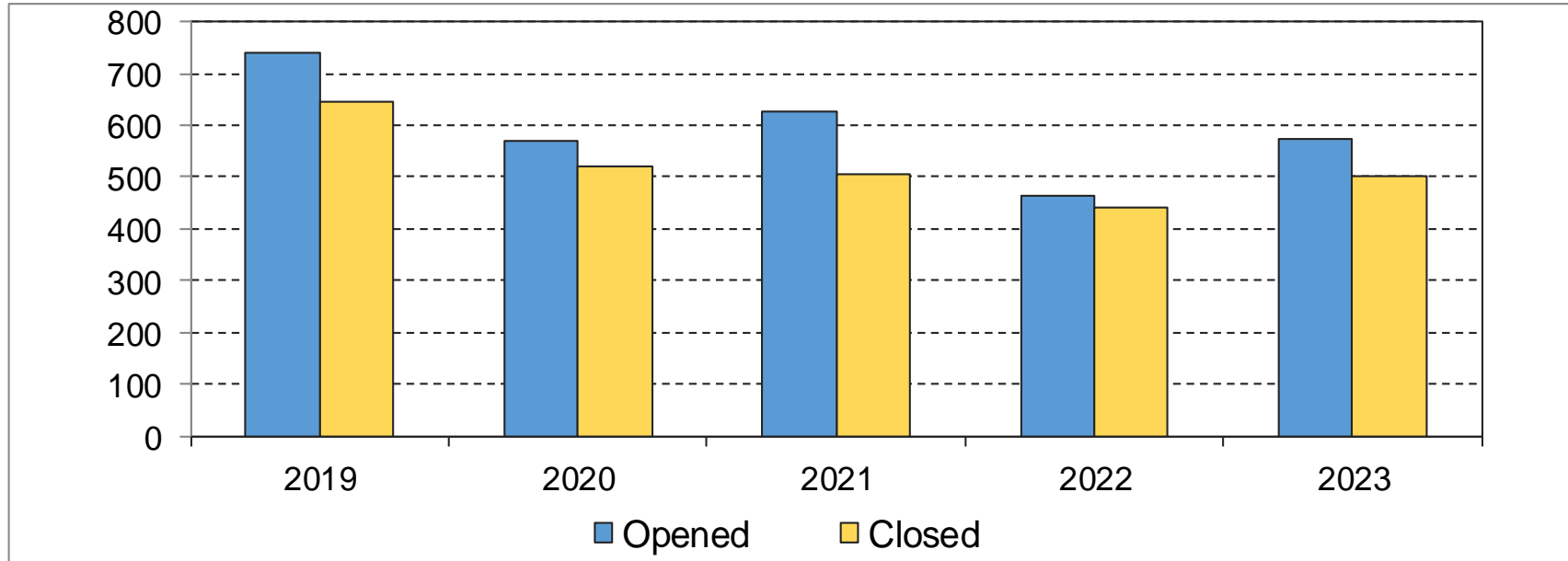
2024 Major Highlights – Neighborhood Revitalization, Ordinance Enforcement & Housing Section



Claims:

- Staffed by two Investigator/Adjusters
- Process all claims filed with city for investigation, analysis and any settlement
- City attorney may settle claims not involving a motor vehicle accident for amounts up to \$5,000, claims above this amount require Common Council approval
- City attorney may settle motor vehicle claims up to \$50,000, claims above this amount require Common Council approval
- All of the adjusters' determinations are reviewed by a Deputy or Assistant City Attorney and ultimately approved or denied by the City Attorney

2024 Major Highlights – Neighborhood Revitalization, Ordinance Enforcement & Housing Section



Claims	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024 (as of 9/12)
	Total claims opened	741	568	627	465	573
Total claims closed	645	520	504	441	502	772

2024 Major Highlights – Neighborhood Revitalization, Ordinance Enforcement & Housing Section

Evictions:

2024 Eviction Totals (1/1/24 to 9/30/2024)	Eviction Matters Opened	Evictions Filed
City (DCD)	32	31
HACM	257	180
Total:	289	211

Public Records, Open Meetings & Ethics

- Assist all City departments in responding to public records requests and in complying with open meetings requirements.
- Provide extensive training sessions training to City officials and employees regarding public records, open meetings and ethics
- Assist Ethics Board in issuing confidential advisory opinions