

Reply to Common Council File No. 070712
From DOA-Budget and Management Division

January 8, 2009

Ref: BF07

Common Council File 070712 is a resolution authorizing the release and expenditure of funds for Fire and Police Department Monitoring/Auditing.

The Fire and Police Department Monitoring/Auditing Special Purpose Account was created in the 2007 budget in the amount of \$50,000 in response to the 2006 Best Practices Review of the Fire and Police Commission. The Best Practices Review emphasized that periodic auditing and evaluation was needed for citizen complaints that are filed with Milwaukee Police Department. Common Council file 060960 specified that a Request for Proposals was to be developed for the monitoring and auditing functions.

The primary goal of the RFP is to secure a vendor to evaluate the Milwaukee Police Department's overall citizen complaint process in order to assess the current system and highlight areas of concern. Specifically the vendor will analyze the Milwaukee Police Department's procedures for receiving, processing, investigating and resolving citizen complaints. The vendor will also audit closed citizen complaints to assess the quality, timeliness, and objectivity of the investigation as well as citizen satisfaction with the process.

As the Fire and Police Commission works to reestablish itself as an independent department and become fully staffed, the results of the assessment will help strengthen the Commission's oversight of the citizen complaint function with Milwaukee Police Department and assist the Commission in identifying areas for improvement. The evaluation will also make the citizen complaint function more transparent to the public and facilitate a better understanding of the overall process.

Input from the new Fire and Police Commission Executive Director would have been preferred in determining the scope of the RFP. However, given the timeframe for hiring the new Executive Director and the critical nature of the auditing function, the community, and the city's best interests will be served by proceeding with the RFP.

RECOMMENDATION: APPROVE THE FILE.

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RLJ:dmr

Committee on Finance
and Personnel

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