

April 14, 2003

To the Honorable Common Council
Of the City of Milwaukee
City Hall – Room 205

Re: Expenditure Authorization for Special Purpose Accounts

Dear Common Council Members:

I respectfully request that exhibit A attached to Common Council File Number 020586 resolution authorizing city departments to expend moneys appropriated in the 2003 budget for Special Purpose Accounts, Debt Service Fund, Provision for Employees' Retirement Fund, Delinquent Tax Fund, Common Council Contingent Fund, Grant and Aid Fund, and Special Capital Projects or Purposes be amended to read the following:

SPECIAL PURPOSE ACCOUNTS

| <u>Account Title</u> | <u>Amount</u> | <u>Department</u> |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-------------------|
| 0001-9990-0001-S157-006300 Outside Counsel/Expert Witness Fund | 225,000 | City Attorney |

This resolution gives departments control over funds and authority to expend moneys appropriated in the budget for Special Purpose Accounts. The expenditure authority for the Outside Counsel/Expert Witness Fund is currently by resolution. This Special Purpose Account is one of only a few that are designated for expenditure by resolution. This fund is used by the City Attorney's Office to retain outside counsel and hire expert witnesses. The process of doing this by resolution has proven to be very time consuming, costly, and has created delays in hiring outside counsel and expert witnesses. Changing the expenditure authority to be designated City Attorney would expedite the process and be consistent with other Special Purpose Accounts assigned to our office. The necessity of introducing a file to allocate funds to a specific case may cause the City to prematurely disclose witnesses that might be subject to deposition even though

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we may not use them. In addition, when a case is completed a separate resolution is necessary to transfer funds to existing cases, adding additional expense and delays.

The process of appropriating funds by resolution is very cumbersome and expensive. It would be extremely helpful to office to be able to expend these funds as we expend other litigation-related expenses without additional expenditure authorization. Your favorable consideration of this request would be greatly appreciated.

Very truly yours

GRANT F. LANGLEY
City Attorney

GFL:bw
#66246