

Reply to Common Council File No. 060166
From DOA-Budget and Management Division

June 8, 2006

Ref: 06013

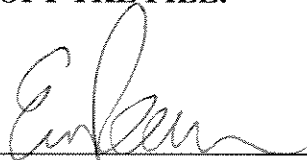
Common Council File 060166 is a resolution establishing a draw down account with the Milwaukee County Clerk of Court for the payment of filing fees for property liens filed by the Municipal Court.

The Municipal Court files property liens every year as a method of enforcing municipal court judgments. The Court pays \$10 per lien, and funds these lien fees through its operating budget. Currently, liens are manually processed about three to four times a year in large batches. Checks are made to the County Clerk when the lien documents are filed, and it takes about four to six months to enforce a batch of liens.

The Municipal Court estimates that enforcement time can be reduced to about 48 hours for each lien if a draw down account of lien filings is established. This will enable the Court to pre-pay the filing fees, and its new case management system allows the liens to be filed electronically. The benefits of this changed method of filing liens and paying lien fees include reducing overall processing time, capturing more properties through the lien process, and accelerating compliance with court judgments.

There is no direct fiscal impact because the Municipal Court operating budget includes funding for lien fees. The resolution establishes a maximum of \$10,000 in the draw down account, with funding to come from the Court's operating budget. There is a potential for increased revenue.

RECOMMENDATION: ADOPT THE FILE.



Eric C. Pearson
Budget and Policy Manager

ECP:dmr

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