



CITY OF CHICAGO

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL-ROOM 200  
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET  
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ALDERMAN JASON C. ERVIN  
CHAIRMAN

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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT  
APRIL 2025

Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City Council Rules of Order, the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations (CBGO) submits the following Monthly Rule 45 Report for APRIL 2025 Meeting.

**Date, Time & Location of Meeting:** On April 14, 2025 at 1:00 P.M., the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations held a Meeting in City Hall, Council Chamber, 121 N. LaSalle Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor.

**Attendance:** The following members were present: Chairman Ervin (28), Vice-Chairman Lee (11), La Spata (1), Dowell (3), Yancy (5), Mitchell (7), Quinn (13), Lopez (15), Moore (17), O'Shea (19), Rodriguez (22), Scott (24), Sigcho-Lopez (25), Burnett (27), Taliaferro (29), Cardona (31), Conway (34), Quezada (35), Sposato (38), Nugent (39), Vasquez (40) and Hadden (49).

The following members attended virtually: Harris (8), Napolitano (41) and Knudsen (43).

The following members were absent: Robinson (4), Ramirez (12), Mosley (21), Rodriguez-Sanchez (33), Villegas (36), Mitts (37), Reilly (42), Martin (47) and Silverstein (50).

Internal witnesses present: **Office of Budget & Management (OBM):** Chloe Belczak, Deputy Budget Director; **Department of Family & Support Services (DFSS):** Raymond Barrett, Managing Deputy Commissioner, Kimberly Howard, Director of Homeless Prevention; **Chicago Department of Public Health (CDPH):** Regina Jimenez, Assistant Commissioner, Madeline Shea, Assistant Commissioner and Maribel Chavez-Torres, Deputy Commissioner; **Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT):** Grant Davis, Director Of Grants Management

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations addressed the following items:

- **Approval of Monthly Rule 45 Report for March 2025**

- 1. Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2025 amendment within Fund 925.  
(O2025-0016001)**
- 2. Redevelopment Agreement with MAAFA Redemption Project Inc. to provide neighborhood opportunity funds for interior conversion of a church located at 4241 W. Washington Boulevard to the MAAFA Center for Arts and Activism in the 28<sup>th</sup> Ward.  
(O2025-0015992)**
- 3. Transfer of funds within 1<sup>st</sup> Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2024.  
(O2025-0015965)**
- 4. Transfer of funds within 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2025.  
(O2025-0015849)**

Chairman Ervin called the meeting to order, took roll call, and recognized a quorum was present. He then made a motion to allow Committee Members, Aldermen Harris, Napolitano, Mitts and Mosley to join virtually pursuant to Rule 59, so moved by Alderman La Spata, hearing no objections, the Aldermen were added to the roll. The Chairman next checked the monitor and confirmed that Aldermen Harris and Napolitano were present virtually. He then proceeded to read the Rules of Conduct for Public Meetings, then opened the floor for public comment. The following speakers were present and given three minutes each for public comment:

- George Blakemore
- Tiwon Sims

The Chair concluded the public comment period and recognized Alderman Rodriguez for quorum purposes. He then made a motion to allow Committee Member, Alderman Knudsen to join virtually pursuant to Rule 59, so moved by Vice Chair Lee, hearing no objections, the Alderman was added to the roll.

Chairman Ervin then moved to the approval of the Rule 45 Report for March 2025, which was transmitted electronically to the Membership. The Chair asked if there were any requests for discussion. Hearing no such requests, Alderman Mitchell moved to approve the report. A vote was taken, and the report was approved.

Chairman Ervin continued to Item# 1, an Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2025 amendment within Fund 925. The Chair made a motion to accept a substitute ordinance on Item #1, Alderman Lopez so moved, hearing no objection, the item was adopted. Chloe Belczak, Deputy Budget Director, was acknowledged and provided a narrative on the ordinance amending the 925 Fund Appropriation, an additional \$8,089,000 in federal, state and local/private grant awards for the Department of Public Health, Department of Family and Support Services and the Department of Transportation. Deputy Budget Director Belczak concluded, and the Chair opened the floor for questions and comments, then recognized Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez referenced the DFSS grant, asking for an explanation of the what the Tax Write Off Program is. Kimberly Howard, Director of Homeless Prevention replied, this is just the name of the state

funding award, I'm not sure where the funding comes from on the state side, the state offers us to apply annually and there is a very specific guidance that we follow on how to spend those funds, which is mostly for renovations and purchase of supplies for the shelters. Alderman Lopez then requested through the Chair what the tax write off program entails from the state's perspective. Noting that he is curious if there's ways for us to better maximize if that's a write off program that's citywide for us to be able to create more opportunities for funding. Alderman Lopez continued his line of questions, citing the \$3.8 Million CREATE grant from the state for CDOT, asking if that money is different from what we get from the federal government or are those pass-through dollars from the federal government to the state to us? Grant Davis, Director of Grants Management, responded that the \$3.8 Million is the railroad's participation cost share for the project, its neither state nor federal funding. Alderman Lopez asked how much is available of the private share of that money? Director Davis replied that it is specific to this project. Alder Lopez inquired if there were any other areas where we are seeing similar projects like this or is there a list of potential projects? Commenting that many of us who deal with railroad oftentimes ask for other funding opportunities to deal with many of the issues, particularly as they relate to retaining walls, is that included in any of the discussions or are we looking at ways to find money for those as well? Director Davis informed the Alderman that these funds are specifically for CREATE, a regional program, looking at improvements for freight. I am not aware of a separate fund that the railroad provides to the city for retaining walls. Alderman Lopez said thank you and the Chair asked if there were any other questions, seeing there were none, Alderman Lopez moved to pass on Item #1, a voice vote was observed, hearing no objections, the item was approved and will be reported out at the next City Council Meeting on April 16, 2025.

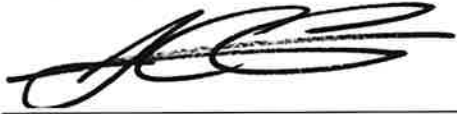
Chairman Ervin moved to Item #2 noting that it will be held in committee at the request of the grantee. He then proceeded to address Items #3 and 4 of the agenda which are Transfer of Fund ordinances within the 1<sup>st</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup> Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2025. He acknowledged there was a substitute ordinance on Item #4, which has been distributed to all committee members, he then called a motion to accept the substitute ordinance, Vice Chair Lee made a motion to accept, the Chair called a vote, recognizing all Ayes and no Nays, and the substitute was adopted.

The Chairman next acknowledged the original and substitute, respectively, on Items 3 and 4 were before the Body. He queried for questions recognizing Alderman Lopez who stated that we are all aware that there is a million dollar turnover in the budget for the City Council, then asked does that turnover which generally relates to hiring or gaps and spending that creates savings, is any of that taken into account when we are dealing with these fund-to-fund transfers, whether it's for expense-to-personnel or personnel-to-expense. Chairman Ervin replied, yes, theoretically the ward encumbrance of \$10,800 was left to the discretion of the Alderman to figure out how they wanted to apply it. For example, if you don't hire someone in the first part of the year and you had a vacancy and that money could have been eaten up in the vacancy you could transfer money from the salary line to expense line to cover it or vice versa. Alderman Lopez then asked if members of this body are being encouraged as other departments to make that allocation and then not fill that space or are you just leaving it to the discretion of the member. Chair Ervin responded, if the member does nothing it will just sit as an encumbrance on the expense line, if you want to adjust how that \$10,800 is conserved that's totally up to the member. Alderman Lopez concluded, and the Chairman queried for any other questions. Seeing there were none, then asked if there was a motion to accept Items 3 and 4, Alderman Yancy so Moved, and Chairman called a voice vote signifying all in favor say Aye, any opposed. Hearing no Nays, the Chairman recognized the Do Pass recommendation would be reported out at the next City Council Meeting on April 16, 2025.

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations having no further business, on motion made by Alderman Cardona for adjournment, Chair acknowledged all Ayes and no Nays, and the meeting was adjourned.

*(A video recording of the full meetings with committee members, internal and external experts, as well as any/all public speaking content can be reviewed on the Chicago City Clerk website under Committee Meeting Web Stream Archive dated April 14<sup>th</sup>.)*

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Ervin', written over a horizontal line.

Jason C. Ervin, Chairman  
Committee on the Budget and Government Operations