

From: May, Michael

Sent: Tuesday, December 04, 2007 3:27 PM

To: Verveer, Mike; Konkol, Brenda; Bruer, Tim; Schumacher, Michael; Webber, Robbie; Compton, Judy; Clausius, Joe; Rhodes-Conway, Satya

Cc: Veldran, Lisa; ALL ALDERS

Subject: CCOC Meeting: Agenda Item 4.

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Dear CCOC Members:

I will not be attending the meeting later this afternoon. A matter before the CCOC today directly impacts my performance as a City manager, and I would like to let you have my thoughts on it.

I want to voice my deep concerns over the proposed resolution requiring quarterly financial reports from each City Department. (Agenda Item #4, Legistar #07784).

I monitor my budget on a monthly or bi-monthly basis. When I see a line item that appears high or low, I review it with other staff here, or, if necessary, with the Comptroller's office. I often find that certain lines are high or low at times during the year, depending on the timing of expenditures, or whether certain positions have been filled on a timely basis. It has been rare that lines have been far enough off that any budget adjustment is needed and, as far as I can recall, our office has never had the need for an additional appropriation, except to hire outside counsel.

I do not understand the need for this additional reporting requirement. If Alders are concerned about specific departments, they may contact the department head. If Alders want to get copies of the monthly reports from each department, I am sure they could be distributed. But to have each department take the additional step of creating a new set of reports strikes me as busy work at best and extreme micro-management at worst.

The resolution appears to be a reaction to a single incident, when funds were placed in the budget for sick leave for part-time employees and no proposal to spend the funds was ever developed. I suspect that the blame for that matter, if there is blame, is sufficient to spread around to a number of us; but the answer is not to require an entire new set of reports. The answer is to develop a system to follow up on budget initiatives.

I ask that the CCOC not pursue this reporting requirement.

Thank you.

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