

**From:** [Bonnie Roe](#)  
**To:** [Finance Committee](#)  
**Cc:** [All Alders; Tishler, Bill](#)  
**Subject:** Investment Earnings, etc  
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Hi Members of the Finance Committee,

Just a couple thoughts/questions...

First, with all the talk on here (and other places) about our City growing rapidly in size and density, does it concern any of you that our police department is understaffed and unable to meet the demands of the growing population? Chief Barnes has said he needs 30 additional officers. You can imagine how swamped Officers, Detectives, and Investigative Services are after a weekend like this. It takes 18 months to train a police officer.

I understand there's a large deficit, but why do other departments get proposed increases, but critical service providers like police are stuck without added resources for years as the City grows rapidly? This is a problem that is going to need to be solved moving forward.

Concerning one of your agenda items tonight, why keep funding the Office of the Independent Monitor at all when their objectives have not been accomplished and after 3 years there is still no process to submit a complaint?

Also, I see the projected deficit appears to have shrunk by \$5 million, from \$27 million to \$22 million. It appears to me that that is due to applying \$6 million in first half of 2024 investment earnings. I think this makes some sense for this year, but as we all know, those are one-time funds that likely won't remain the case for next year, as the Feds will likely lower interest rates at some point in the near future. So it's not a lasting remedy. Still, it makes more sense than not accounting for it at all until 2025, so I guess that's an improvement. I guess if that would've been done last year, you could have avoided having to "balance" the 2024 budget with reoffering premium and that could have gone toward our significant debt (where it belongs).

I sure don't envy the position you all are in. This is going to require major prioritization of City services, and all things cannot be considered equal.

Thank you for your leadership and I hope you will steward it well,

Bonnie Roe  
District 11