Council Chief of Staff Update
8/5/25

Upcoming Staff Out-of-Office

8/6-8/8: Karen out
8/22: Isaac out
8/25: Liz out
8/28: Liz out
August TBD Debbie out
Sept 1: City Offices Closed

Reminders & Tips

All-Alder Retreat on Saturday, September 13. Being Public: Navigating the Spectrum of Disagreement and Conflict as Elected Officials Facilitated by Abha Thakkar, Mosaic LLC. Lunch from Melly Mel's (including beef, chicken, vegetarian, and vegan options).

Common Council Discussion on Tuesday, September 30. Topic: Purpose-Built Men's Shelter. 6:00 p.m. CCB 201.

Register for the YWCA Racial Justice Summit. Deadline is 8/29/25.

City Website Accessibility-How Alders Can Help
We are legally required to make City public facing web content accessible by April of 2026. This is due to a federal ruling. At this time, alders can assist by **avoiding ALL CAPS** when writing their blog posts. We know that content coming from agencies may contain all caps, so this ask is focused on the content you write yourself, or draft content that you are given and can easily modify before posting. If you'd like to learn more about best practices to keep in mind while blogging, there are several resources and articles available on EmployeeNet (access with your City login). Here are some examples of all caps in some recent blogs that caught the attention of the software (Siteimprove) that the City is using to help staff identify issues (highlighted in red below).

City Training Opportunities

The **on-demand training portal** has a number of additional trainings on topics that may be of interest, including Giving & Receiving Feedback, How to Run Effective Meetings, Customer De-Escalation, and an orientation to the Equitable Hiring Plan (formerly the Equitable Hiring Tool).

Sparking Growth
Description: Sparking Growth is a training focused on exploring topics like grief, the window of tolerance, and strategies to foster balance and mental health. Join us for this interactive session where we will explore components of mental health and will practice skills to assist with emotional regulation and balance. Leave the space with practical tools and knowledge to foster your wellbeing at home and workplace. August 12, 1:30 – 3:00 p.m., virtual

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Plain Language and Effective Communication

Description: How you communicate and the language you use can serve to build positive and lasting relationships, help people understand your message, and help people make informed decisions. In this session, you will learn tools to increase understanding and engagement as well as to disrupt power dynamics in language. Learn how language can foster inclusion and how to navigate communication challenges. We will also review the ADA's effective communication requirements for public entities. August 19, 10-11:30 a.m., virtual.