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October 22, 2008

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance convened on October 22, 2008, with Chairman Maryann Heuston presiding and Committee Members Aldermen Bruce Desmond, Walter Pero, Dennis Sullivan and John Connolly also present and voting. Also present were Administrative Assistant Jesse Baker, Police Chief Anthony Holloway and Finance Director Ed Bean.

186277 – Salaries for Deputy Police Chiefs:

Chief Holloway addressed the committee and stated that the tenure for the Deputy Chief positions would be year to year and that, in the event of one or both of the individuals in those positions not being reappointed, replacements would come from the rank of Captain. Chief Holloway noted that a replacement could, however, come from the rank of Lieutenant. The salary for the Deputy Chief position will be \$143,000, with no overtime or Quinn Bill eligibility.

186343 – Emergency Preparedness Grant:

Ms. Baker told the members that this grant would come under her purview for emergency preparedness and that the funds could be reallocated due to economic constraints. Alderman Pero inquired about the hiring process for a Public Health Director. Ms. Baker stated that a selection committee has been established and that 5-6 candidates would be selected from the pool of applicants. From there, the names of 2-3 finalists would be sent to the Mayor for selection, with the final selection being sent to the Board of Aldermen for approval. The salary for the Director's position will be \$72,000.

Alderman Pero's motion **that the Mayor inform the Finance Committee of the rationale for excluding the position of Board of Health Director from the hiring freeze**, was approved.

The committee wants to know if hiring is critical on all of the positions that will be filled and Mr. Bean replied that the city is taking a cautious approach on any new hires. Additionally, overtime is being closely scrutinized by all departments and only essential, negotiated public safety overtime would be allowed.

Chairman Heuston will schedule a Finance Committee of the Whole meeting to report on the financial State of the City and to discuss certain Human Resources decisions that have come before the committee.

The committee will be looking for a set of standards and will examine requests for purchases and certain ranges of new hire salaries.

The committee discussed matters before it and took action on the following 2 items:

186277: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval for a transfer of \$21,225 from the Salary Contingency Acct. to the Police Salaries Acct. to establish 2 Deputy Chiefs of Police at a salary of \$143,000 per year, and to fund the positions from 9/28/08-6/30/09.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

186343: Communication from Mayor - Requesting approval to expend a grant of \$16,193.65 from the Health Dept. Emergency Preparedness Region 4B for the Fire Dept. to hire a part-time Emergency Preparedness Assistant Coordinator.

RECOMMENDATION: Should be approved

VOTE: Unanimous, 5 - 0 in favor

Alderman Maryann Heuston, Chairman
Committee on Finance

COMMITTEE REPORT

Report of the Committee on Finance,
October 22, 2008

In Board of Aldermen

Clerk