



CITY OF CHICAGO



COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
CITY COUNCIL  
CITY HALL - ROOM 200  
121 NORTH LASALLE STREET  
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60602

ALDERMAN PAT DOWELL  
CHAIRMAN

PHONE: 312-744-3166  
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Date: April 8, 2021

**COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT  
MARCH 2021**

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Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City Council Rules of Order, the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations submits the following Monthly Rule 45 Report for March 2021.

**Date, Time &  
Location of  
Meeting:**

On March 17, 2021, at 10:00 a.m., the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations held a meeting via video conference, in Chicago, Illinois.

**Attendance:**

The following members were virtually present at the March 17, 2021 Committee on the Budget and Government Operations Meeting: Chairman Dowell (3), Vice-Chair Silverstein (50), King (4), Hairston (5), Sawyer (6), Mitchell (7), Harris (8), Sadlowski-Garza (10), Thompson (11), Cardenas (12), Quinn (13), Moore (17), Curtis (18), Brookins (21), Rodriguez (22), Tabares (23), Scott (24), Burnett (27), Ervin (28), Taliaferro (29), Reboyras (30), Waguespack (32), Austin (34), Ramirez-Rosa (35), Villegas (36), Mitts (37), Sposato (38), Napolitano (41), Reilly (42), Smith (43), Tunney (44), Cappleman (46) and Osterman (48).

The following member(s) were virtually not present at the March 17, 2021 Committee on the Budget and Government Operations Meeting: O'Shea (19).

The following non-members were virtually present at the March 17, 2021 Committee on the Budget and Government Operations Meeting: La Spata (1), Beale (9), Burke (14), Lopez (15), Sigcho Lopez (25), Cardona (31), and Rodriguez Sanchez (33).



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

**REFERRED TO THE COMMITTEE DURING THE FEBRUARY 24, 2021 CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

- 1. Substitute Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2021 amendment within Fund No. 925 for various offices and departments, and authorization of Emergency Rental Assistance program software contract with Unqork, Inc. (SO2021-747).**

**SUBSTITUTE ADOPTED BY COMMITTEE 3/17/21**

**SUBSTITUTE PASS COMMITTEE 3/17/21**

**SUBSTITUTE PASS CITY COUNCIL 3/24/21**

On March 17, 2021 Chairman Dowell called the virtual meeting to order pursuant to applicable law and determination that attendance by remote means is necessary because an in-person meeting is not practical or prudent due to the declared public health disaster cause by COVID-19, the meeting is conducted by video conference. Chairman Dowell took a roll call to establish a quorum and a quorum was established. Chairman Dowell opened the floor to begin the public comment period and explained the procedures for public comment. Tremell Williams was recognized as the first speaker. Mr. Williams was followed by Ephraim Martin. The final speaker was Marilyn May. With no further speakers signed up to speak, Chairman Dowell closed the public comment period.

Alderman Dowell called for approval of the February 2021 Monthly Rule 45 Report for the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations. Alderman Austin moved to accept the Rule 45 Report. Hearing no objections, the item was approved.

Chairman Dowell then asked for a motion to accept the substitute Fund No. 925 ordinance. Motion made by Alderman Mitts, which was passed by the same roll call vote used to establish quorum. With the substitute ordinance under consideration, Alderman Dowell recognized Office of Budget and Management Deputy Director Latoya Vaughn to speak on item 1 on the agenda, a Substitute Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2021 amendment within Fund No. 925 for various offices and departments, and authorization of Emergency Rental Assistance program software contract with Unqork, Inc. (SO2021-747). Deputy Director Vaughn explained the ordinance. At the conclusion of Director Vaughn's opening remarks, Chairman Dowell recognized Department of Housing Commissioner Marissa Novara to explain the software portion for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program contained in the ordinance. Chairman Dowell then opened the meeting up for questions from committee members



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and other aldermen. Aldermen Harris and Sawyer asked their colleagues to support the ordinance because it contains funding for the Gift of Hope project. Alderman Ramirez Rosa commended the Department of Housing for the rental assistance program. Alderman Ervin asked for specific funding information and effectiveness of the Small Business Resiliency Fund and for the Department of Aviation portions of the grant funding. Department of Aviation Commissioner Jamie Rhee provided details on how the Department of Aviation has supported concessionaires. Following Commissioner Rhee's statement Department of Business Affairs and Consumer Protection Managing Deputy Commissioner Kenya Merritt and Jack Brofman from the Chief Financial Officer's staff provided information on the Small Business Resiliency Fund. Alderman Moore asked who is serving as the acting commissioner for the Department of Family and Support Services. Brandie Knazze identified herself as the acting commissioner. Alderman Moore asked for MBE/DBE information for all grants funds allocated by department. Chairman Dowell directed Alderman Moore to the existing handout, however Alderman Moore wanted to expand the information to include funding by provider and MBE/DBE information. Acting Commissioner Knazze walked Alderman Moore through another existing handout for DFSS but that information didn't include all programs and departments. Alderman Mitts asked for a breakdown of program area responsibilities and effectiveness of programs funded by the Fund No. 925 grant. Chairman Dowell referred Alderman Mitts to an existing handout sent to all aldermen and that the departments will provide the additional information requested that was not included in the existing handout. Alderman Osterman asked for his colleagues to support the ordinance because of the importance of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program portion of the ordinance. He then asked about the BACP portion of the ordinance and if the grants are citywide. BACP Managing Deputy Director Merritt answered that yes the grants are citywide and application information will be sent out soon. Alderman Osterman then asked for information on which businesses received BACP grant funding. Alderman Lopez asked if businesses that previously applied to the Small Business Resiliency Fund will have to reapply for the new funding. Managing Deputy Commissioner Merritt said that this new funding will support a new grant program to focus on a different category of businesses. Alderman Lopez asked about how that funding will be distributed equitably. Managing Deputy Director Merritt explained that there is an equity component to the competitive grant process. Alderman Lopez then asked for communities served for the attachment two grant recipients. Acting Commissioner Knazze promised to clean up the existing list but also explained that many of the programs provide services citywide. Next, Alderman Lopez asked for the department's metrics for determining the success of DFSS funded programs. In addition, Alderman Lopez asked about equitable distribution of services for the Latino community. Acting Commissioner Knazze explained how resources are distributed. Last, Alderman Lopez asked about the use of unallocated funds, and the locations for CDOT funding in the grant. Alderman Reilly asked for the HUD definition of low and moderate income neighborhoods, and explained how previous assistance from



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BACP was limited to low and moderate income neighborhoods and that excluded lots of worthy MBE/DBE businesses. BACP Deputy Director Merritt said the limitation was imposed as a condition of the federal grant funds. Alderman Reilly asked if BACP has any programs for businesses outside low and moderate income neighborhoods. BACP Director Merritt said the department is trying to identify funding to distribute to all businesses citywide. Alderman Reilly asked CDOT about the space activation grant program, its costs to businesses to participate, and suggested ways to offset some of the costs to businesses to participate in the CDOT space activation programs. Alderman Reboyras asked about domestic violence funding. Acting Commissioner Knazze explained that DFSS can not give out addresses of shelters for safety reasons. Managing Deputy Commissioner Alisa Rodriguez added that the handout was incorrect and the information cited by Alderman Reboyras belonged in another section. Alderman Rodriguez Sanchez asked about the CDOT space activation program. CDOT Project Director Lubica Benak explained that the locations for the activations have not been determined and there will an RFP. Alderman Rodriguez Sanchez also asked for a guarantee that the aviation funding will not be used for CPD. Aviation Commissioner Rhee answered that no money will go to personnel for CPD. Alderman Harris moved do pass Item No. 1 on the agenda by the same roll call vote used to determine quorum. Hearing no objections, the item passed and was reported out at the City Council meeting on Wednesday, March 24, 2021.

Chairman Dowell stated that there was no further business before the Committee and asked for a motion to adjourn by the same roll call vote as was applied to determine quorum. Alderman Ervin moved to adjourn. The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations Meeting adjourned at 11:45 am.

**Respectfully submitted by:**

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Pat Dowell".

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**Pat Dowell**  
**Chairman, Committee on the Budget and Government Operations**