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TO: HONORABLE CITY COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: September 20, 2024

RE: Request for a status report concerning the Merrill Fountain Restoration Project at Palmer Park

The Legislative Policy Division (LPD) submits this report in response to a request from Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway dated July 17, 2024, to provide a status report concerning the Merrill Fountain located at Palmer Park. In April 2024, the City Council approved \$2.5 Million for the restoration of the fountain and quarterly status reports will be needed to determine whether the Administration will perform the restoration in a timely manner. The information needed for this report require the assistance of the Construction and Demolition Department, the General Services Department and the Office of the Chief Financial Officer (OCFO).

LPD at first, contacted the General Services Department as the initial FY 2025 budget discussions regarding this project was held with them. We were notified by the director of GSD that the project was transferred to the Construction and Demolition Department. This is customary as the Construction and Demolition Department is purposed to conduct project management for the city's capital projects. LPD sent an inquiry to the Construction and Demolition Department and OCFO- Office of Departmental Services regarding the Merrill Fountain Restoration Project.

To date, we have not received a response to our inquiry from either agency. We requested the following information:

- Start and anticipated completion dates.
- What stage of the project are we in today
- How much has been spent to date.

- Is the \$2.5 million budgeted in F 2025 enough funds to complete the project; if not, how much more is needed?

We will continue to reach out to the departments to obtain the information requested and monitor the status as reported.

If you have any additional questions for LPD or the department(s), please contact us.