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To: Councilmember Pro-Tem Tate

From: David Bell, Director of BSEE/D

**Date:** May 1, 2025

Re: Responses to 2025-2026 Budget Analysis

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 25, 2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for BSEED.

1. In years prior, it was reported by the Elevators Operators Union that BSEED's Construction Division was behind on elevator inspections. To date, is the division managing timely elevator inspections?

The reason for the lag in inspections was due to the difficulty in filling the Elevator and Supervising Elevator Inspector positions among other hard-to-fill skilled trades positions due to industry competition with other municipalities and industries for skilled trades. Although we have made efforts with assistance from the Human Resources Department, filling these positions remains challenging. However, due to the recent hiring of additional elevator inspectors by BSEED, there has been a significant improvement in inspections from previous years, and the inspection timeline has been normalized.

2. Please describe the partnership between the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental (BSEED) and the Inspector General (IG) for holding City contractors responsible for fraud, waste, abuse or corruption. What "hypothetical" instances would BSEED report a contractor to the IG?

BSEED would report the contractor to the Office of Contracting and Procurement and then an immediate escalation to the OIG for investigation into possible fraudulent practices including but not limited to bribery, conflict of interest, unethical business practices, misconduct for an in-depth investigation.