



CITY OF DETROIT

MARY SHEFFIELD

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Steven Watson, Deputy CFO/ Budget Director OCFO-Office

Through: [Click here to enter text.](#)

From: Council President Mary Sheffield submitting memorandum relative to

Date: 3/31/2023

RE: City Council FY 23-24 Budget Questions

SUMMARY:

1. Employee benefits in City Council's proposed budget is approximately 21% of the salary and wages which is indicative of the fact that not all Council employees receive benefits due to budget constraints.

[Has there been an analysis performed which looks at the employment needs of any given Council office and what should be allotted for salaries/wages and benefits for all employees?](#)

2. City Council recently received capital dollars to refurbish Council Chambers and other City Council common areas on the 13th Floor. However, Council offices are outdated and given the recent pandemic and social distancing requirements are inadequate. Currently, City Council has to pay for office renovations from individual office's operation budgets.

[Is City Council afforded any capital funding for office renovations much like other departments? If not, why?](#)

3. For City Council's last retreat focusing on professional development and policy agenda development, Council need to request a budget amendment and ultimately use the fund balance from Council Administration and/or LPD's budget which was the result of unfilled positions.

Why isn't there an annual allocation for professional development for City Council as a body?

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4. The Law Department's Municipal Section has very capable and talented attorneys who assist Council Members with drafting ordinances and other legislative functions. With that said, there has been a struggle to keeping attorneys in the Municipal Section making it more difficult to simultaneously work on multiple ordinances.

Has there been an assessment of Council's legislative needs with respect to the adequate level of staffing to handle Council's legal requests? If so, what is that level, what is the current level, and how many municipal attorneys does the budget anticipate?

5. City Council has established a number of worthy task forces to be responsive to residents needs and to continue to move the City in a positive direction. Typically, if there is any funding needed to handle the business of these task forces, the funds come from individual Council office's operations budgets.

Could there be funding set aside in the budget to cover costs related to task force administration and work? If so, where is the best place to house these funds within the budget?

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT:

Name: Brian White

Position: Chief of Staff