



LAW DEPARTMENT

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3-29-23

To: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division
Council Members, City Clerk's Office

From: Conrad Mallett, Corporation Counsel

Date: March 29, 2023

Re: Responses to Councilwoman Johnson

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 27, 2023, regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget for Law Dept

- 1. As stated in the budget, the Litigation division is “one of the largest governmental civil litigation divisions in the State of Michigan”. Does this division have the capacity to assist in training city employees on the avoidance of actions that often lead to civil suits?**

Law Department lawyers and senior support staff members have limited risk management expertise. That said, we are in discussion with Human Resources and the City's risk managers on programming through direct contact with the public colleagues. The programming is specifically designed to reduce risk associated with work done by our public-facing employees.

- 2. Has the Law Department considered coordinating with DPD, as well as other departments, to identify the sources of, and develop solutions for, interdepartmental practices that cause high exposure litigation?**

The Law Department agrees that an inter-department initiative to reduce risk is important. The Law Department will work with City of Detroit grant management officers to locate the funds necessary to support risk reduction programming and education.

- 3. How is the Law Department minimizing exposure in high-publicity cases?**

The Law Department carefully manages all cases. All cases that have or have the potential to capture the attention of the public, receive department leadership focus and attention. Law Department leadership is continually brought up to date as to how these cases are progressing. The continuous monitoring of high exposure cases is regular and diligent.