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TO: Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: September 10, 2025

RE: Proposed Ordinance amendment on 50% Budget Allocation to Elected Offices

The Legislative Policy Division has been requested by Council Member Latisha Johnson to draft a proposed amendment to the City Code providing that the elected offices of City Council, Mayor and City Clerk budget appropriations are divided into two separate allocations. The separate allocation would occur only in an election year to ensure equal funding for newly elected officials. In an election year for City of Detroit offices, the budget appropriation would provide 50% in a budget allocation for the first six months of the fiscal year and 50% would be separately allocated for the final six months of the fiscal year. LPD submits this draft amendment to the Detroit City Council for referral to the Law Department for review and approval as to form.

Please call upon us if we can be of further assistance.

S U M M A R Y

AN ORDINANCE to amend Chapter 17 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, Finance; by amending Article II, Budget, Division 1, Allocation; by adding Section 17-2-30 Budget Allocation to Elected Offices of City Council, Mayor and City Clerk; to provide for financial stability of elected offices during election years.

1 **BY COUNCIL MEMBER LATISHIA JOHNSON:**

2
3 **AN ORDINANCE** to amend Chapter 17 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, Finance; by
4 amending Article II, Budget, Division 1, Allocation; by adding Section 17-2-30 Budget Allocation
5 to Elected Offices of City Council, Mayor and City Clerk; to provide for financial stability of
6 elected offices during election years. **IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE**
7 **CITY OF DETROIT THAT:**

8
9
10 **Section 1.** Amend Chapter 17 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, Finance; by amending
11 Article II, Budget, Division 1, Allocation; by adding Section 17-2-30 Budget Allocation to
12 Elected Offices of City Council, Mayor and City Clerk, to read as follows:

13
14 **CHAPTER 17, FINANCE**
15 **ARTICLE II, BUDGET**
16 **DIVISION 1, ALLOCATION**
17

18 **Sec. 17-2-30, Budget Allocation to Elected Offices of City Council, Mayor and City**
19 **Clerk**

- 20 1. **In the year of a general election of city offices as set forth in the City of**
21 **Detroit Home Rule Charter (Charter), Section 3-105, the total annual**
22 **adopted general fund budget allocation for the elected offices of the City**
23 **Council, Mayor and City Clerk shall be separated and divided into two**

1 budget appropriations for that fiscal year.

- 2 2. Each of the elected offices of City Council, Mayor and City Clerk in the
3 year of the city general election shall receive 50% of the unencumbered
4 budget allocation for the period July 1st through December 31st of the first
5 six months of the fiscal year. The remaining 50% of the unencumbered
6 budget allocation shall be made available for the period January 1st
7 through June 30th for the final six months of the fiscal year for each elected
8 office of City Council, Mayor and City Clerk.
- 9 3. The OCFO shall indicate in the notice based on the number of full-time
10 employees (FTE) working in the council member's office the potential
11 expenditure on salary and related employee benefits including vacation
12 and sick time banks. The monthly notice of the budget allocation shall
13 indicate the amount that would be expended if the FTE's position ends
14 during or at the end of the first six months of that fiscal year.
- 15 4. The current elected office holder shall ensure that the expenditure of
16 appropriations (including the salary and benefits accrued by any FTE)
17 shall not exceed the fifty percent (50%) budget allocation.
- 18 5. The expenditure by an elected official of more than the budget allocation
19 during the allocation period is subject to Section 17-2-27 of this Article, the
20 Uniform Budget and Accounting Act and shall be unlawful.

21

22 **Section 2.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are
23 repealed.

1 **Section 3.** This ordinance is declared necessary for the preservation of the public
2 peace, health, safety, and welfare of the people of the City of Detroit.

3 **Section 4.** If this ordinance is passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of City Council
4 members serving, it shall be given immediate effect and shall become effective upon
5 publication in accordance with Section 4-118 of the 2012 Detroit City Charter; if passed
6 by less than a two-thirds (2/3) majority of City Council members serving, it shall become
7 effective no later than thirty (30) days after publication in accordance with Section 4-118
8 of the 2012 Detroit City Charter; if this ordinance specifies a certain date to become
9 effective, it shall become effective in accordance with the date

10 Approved as to form:

11 _____
12 Conrad L. Mallett, Jr.
13 Corporation Counsel
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