



CITY OF CHICAGO

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
CITY COUNCIL
CITY HALL-ROOM 200
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ALDERMAN JASON C. ERVIN
CHAIRMAN

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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT
FEBRUARY 2026

Pursuant to Rule 45 of the City Council Rules of Order, the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations (CBGO) submits the following Monthly Rule 45 Report for FEBRUARY 2026 Meeting.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 10TH

Date, Time & Location of Meeting: On February 10, 2026, at 11:00 A.M., the Committee on the Budget and Government Operations held a meeting in City Hall, Council Chamber, 121 N. LaSalle Street, 2nd Floor.

Attendance: The following members were present: Chairman Ervin (28), Vice Chair Lee (11), La Spata (1), Dowell (3), Mitchell (7), Ramirez (12), Quinn (13), Lopez (15), Moore (17), Mosley (21), Rodriguez (22), Sigcho-Lopez (25), Burnett (27), Taliaferro (29), Cardona (31), Rodriguez-Sanchez (33), Conway (34), Quezada (35), Villegas (36), Sposato (38), Nugent (39), Reilly (42) and Silverstein (50).

The following members attended virtually: Yancy (5), Harris (8), Scott (24), Mitts (37) and Vasquez (40).

The following members were absent: Robinson (4), Beale (9), O'Shea (19), Napolitano (41), Knudsen (43), Martin (47) and Hadden (49).

The following non-members were present: Lawson (44)

Internal witnesses present: **Office of Budget and Management (OBM)**: Chloe Belczak, Deputy Budget Director; **Department of Family and Support Services (DFSS)**: Margaret Laraviere, Deputy Commissioner and Preethi Varma, Director of Grants Management; **Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT)**: Grant Davis, Director of Grants Management and Anne Zhang, Deputy Director; **Office of the City Clerk (OCC)**: Riley Bowlin, Deputy Direct & Chief of Operations.

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations addressed the following items:

➤ **Approval of the Monthly Rule 45 Report of January 2026.**

- 1. Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2026 amendment within Fund 925.
(O2026-0023185)**
- 2. Amendment of Municipal Code Section 3-56-040 to establish a pilot program for wheel tax license renewals for qualified veterans.
(O2025-0020999)**
- 3. Transfer of funds within 38th Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2026.
(SO2026-0022475)**
- 4. Transfer of funds within 44th Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2026.
(O2026-0022444)**
- 5. Transfer of funds within Committee on Police and Fire for Year 2026.
(SO2026-0022321)**
- 6. Transfer of funds within Committee on Police and Fire for Year 2026.
(SO2025-0022322)**
- 7. Transfer of funds within Committee on Police and Fire for Year 2026.
(SO2026-0022323)**

Chairman Ervin called meeting to order, took roll call, and recognized a quorum was present. He then made a Motion to allow Committee Members Aldermen Yancy, Harris, Scott, Mitts, Napolitano and Hadden to join virtually pursuant to Rule 59, so moved by Alderman Martin. Chairman queried all in favor to signify by saying Aye, any opposed? Hearing no objections, the Chairman decreed the Ayes have it, duly recorded the Aldermen added to the roll for quorum and verbally checked to confirm Alders' presence. Aldermen Yancy, Harris, Scott and Mitts and Yancy confirmed their attendance. The Chair then opened the floor for public comments. The following speakers were acknowledged and given three minutes each for commentaries:

- George Blakemore
- Zoe Lee

The Chair concluded the public comment period and took a moment to recognize Alderman Ramirez for purposes of quorum. Chairman Ervin proceeded to the approval of the Rule 45 Report of January 2026, which report was transmitted electronically to the Membership. The Chair asked if there were any requests for discussion. Hearing no such requests, Vice Chair Lee moved to approve the report. A vote was taken, and the report was approved.

Chairman Ervin proceeded to Item #1 on the agenda (a direct introduction), a communication recommending the adoption of an Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2026 amendment within Fund 925. Chloe Belczak, Deputy Budget Director, was acknowledged and provided a narrative on the ordinance amending the Fund 925 Appropriation, an additional \$1,690,000 in federal and state grant awards for the Department of Family and Support Services and the Chicago Department of Transportation. The Deputy Budget Director concluded, and the Chair opened the floor for questions and

comments, first taking a moment to acknowledge Alderman Taliaferro for purposes of quorum then proceeded to call Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez inquired if there was someone from DFSS to speak on the \$185,000 Emergency and Traditional Housing Grant. Preethi Varma, Director of Grants Management identified herself for the record then proceeded to explain that those dollars are for eight shelters, specifically for renovations and purchases, adding that it is a legacy grant they receive each year from the Illinois Department of Human Services. In addition, DFSS holds an additional application process for existing delegates, in which they can apply for up to \$25,000 for renovations in their facilities to ensure compliance with the grant. Alderman Lopez asked if all the shelters are getting up to \$20,000 versus the \$25,000 mentioned which would equal \$200,000. He then requested Through-the-Chair a breakdown of the dollar amount each shelter would be getting as well as what it will be used for. Director Varma replied we will provide a breakdown of renovation purchases for each of these shelters. Alderman Lopez thanked the Director then asked if the \$55 Million was the original grant total from the Illinois Department of Human Services (IDHS)? Director Varma informed the Alderman that the \$55 Million was the original appropriated amount. Alderman Lopez asked if the \$55 Million is for the emergency shelter or is it for the entirety of supporting the One Shelter Initiative, which is the city's new homeless program? Director Varma replied that a portion of that is used to support the One Shelter System. Alderman Lopez followed up by asking how much is used for the One Shelter Initiative? Director Varma stated she will provide that number Through-the-Chair. Alderman Lopez then voiced his concern with the migrant mission being reclassified by the administration as the homeless mission and a number of migrant shelters that were transformed into homeless shelters, noting the location at 25th & Halsted. He then requested Through-the Chair a list of the locations that are considered our shelters in the system and as well as the current/outstanding list of repairs associated with those shelters. Director Varma stated that she will provide a breakdown of all the shelters in the OSI. Alderman Lopez proceeded to inquire and requested Through-the-Chair, tracking of populations that are utilizing our services, if they are our new neighbors or our old neighbors, are we able to answer and ensure that we don't have individuals who are not being helped and how is it being addressed? Director Varma replied that we do track the current demographics across all of our community areas and ensure those who are experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness are receiving the care needed as well as shelter and we will provide a breakdown of those in shelter Through-the-Chair. Alderman Lopez further inquired about the unhoused student population in Chicago Public Schools and if there is a list of resources or coordinated efforts we are doing either as a city or in partnership with CPS to address and service those individuals. Director Varma will provide any resources for high school students Through-the Chair. Alderman Lopez then thanked the Chairman and concluded.

The Chairman paused to recognize Alderman Mitchell for purposes of quorum as well as non-member Alderman Lawson. He also made a Motion to allow Committee Member Alderman Vasquez to join virtually pursuant to Rule 59, so moved by Alderman Rodriguez. Hearing no objections, the Alderman was added to the roll. The Chair then acknowledged Alderman Vasquez who followed up based on Alderman Lopez comments, in thinking about the different populations that are utilizing the services. There's a reason why the city wouldn't track the difference between the different groups, especially in the current moment. He then mentioned that he just wanted to add that for context, stated that he appreciated the work being done, thanked the Chairman then concluded. Chairman Ervin again paused to acknowledge Alderman Sigcho-Lopez for purposes of quorum. The Chair queried for questions, there were none, acknowledged Alderman Lopez's Motion for Move Do Pass on Item#1, requested all in favor signify by saying Aye, any opposed? Recorded that in the opinion of the Chair the Ayes have it, the matter was approved and would be reported out at the next City Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Chairman Ervin continued to Items 3 through 7, Transfers of Fund Ordinances. Substitutes being proposed for Item #3, the 38th Ward and Items 5, 6 and 7, the Committee on Police and Fire, which

substitute ordinances had been distributed to Committee Members, then queried for a Motion to accept the substitutes, so Moved by Alderman Rodriguez. He queried for all in favor to signify by saying Aye, any opposed? He recorded that in the opinion of the Chair the Ayes have it and the Substitutes were before the Committee, solicited a Motion to pass Items 3 through 7, which were Transfers of Fund ordinances in the 38th Ward, 44th Ward and three in Committee on Police and Fire for Year 2026. So Moved by Alderman Dowell. The Chair then queried for all in favor to signify by saying Aye, any opposed? There were all Ayes, no Nays, and the Motion was recorded as approved and to be reported out at the next regular City Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

Chairman Ervin returned to Item# 2 of the agenda, an amendment of the Municipal Code Section 3-56-040 to establish a pilot program for wheel tax license renewals for qualified veterans. The Chairman opened the floor for questions, beginning with Alderman Villegas, the Sponsor of the ordinance.

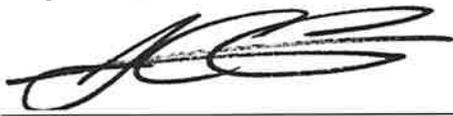
Alderman Villegas thanked the Chairman, introduced the ordinance, then for the record noted there was a question posed by the Committee on Budget related to what the fiscal impact would be. He stated that last year the Clerk's Office issued 8,655 vehicle stickers at no fee license type for persons that would qualify, for a fiscal impact of \$860,000 for the budget. Chairman Ervin then acknowledged the Clerk's Office to further expound on the ordinance. Riley Bowlin, Deputy Director and Chief of Operations gave additional testimony on the ordinance, stating that in 2025, a little over 8,600 veterans were brought into compliance and the impact was around \$800,000, due to the fact that 45% of the people that came into compliance were seniors as well. And continued that in addition, the Clerk's Office would be working with the Chairman's team to develop a pilot program that was not going to be a cost to build out. We are looking to have some type of either email or e-form to allow veterans currently in active status with veteran designation on their vehicle sticker to renew their stickers without having to come into City Hall, but anyone attempting to come into compliance with a new veteran sticker would have to come in for the first time and provide documentation. We are also working to develop our OTC which would be an opportunity to further enhance, modernize and essentially make all renewal stickers better in general. Deputy Director concluded and welcomed questions. The Chairman thanked Deputy Director then recognized Alderman Conway who referenced Section C(2) of the ordinance which stated, "shall continue to provide proof of veterans status", he then asked if that language should be in there if we are actively trying to get rid of that as a necessity. Deputy Director Bowlin stated it is my understanding that for renewals they would be submitting documents to still certify that they have an unexpired driver's license and unexpired vehicle registration, to be submitted via a specific email or e-form that the Clerk's Office designates and will be put on the renewal notices. The Chairman offered to provide further clarity on Alderman Conway's point, raising the question as to why that was necessary, asking is the veteran status something you can lose or be changed and would preclude one from no longer being a veteran? Deputy Director responded, it's just to make sure the ID and vehicle registration are current, just as we do with the seniors. Alderman Conway asked what does recertify look like for seniors? Deputy Director explained that it's to verify they're still with us and that the license is current, it's to mitigate fraud. Alderman Conway then referenced the language in C(1), asking if it is flexible enough to allow for improving the program because it seems crazy on some level that if I provide my DD214 in one year that I must provide my DD214 again assuming I scanned it in the online form. Deputy Director clarified, we don't ask for the DD214, just the vehicle registration and Illinois Driver's License. Alderman Conway concluded and thanked the Chairman, Alderman Villegas for his leadership of the Veterans Caucus and Deputy Director Bowlin and OCC for their efforts in making things better for veterans and for bringing people into compliance. The Chair took a moment to recognize Alderman La Spata for purposes of quorum then asked the body if there were any other questions, seeing none, then recognized Alderman Villegas for closing remarks. Alderman Villegas thanked the City Clerk's Office for bringing this forward

then asked the Committee for favorable consideration today and at City Council the following week. The Chair asked if there was a motion to accept Item #2, Alderman Villegas so Moved, and Chairman called a voice vote signifying all in favor say Aye, any opposed. Hearing no Nays, the Chairman recognized the Do Pass recommendation would be reported out at the next City Council Meeting on Wednesday, February 18, 2026.

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations having no further business, on motion made by Alderman Rodriguez for adjournment, acknowledged all Ayes and no Nays, and the meeting was adjourned.

(A video recording of the full meetings with committee members, internal and external experts, as well as any/all public speaking content can be reviewed on the Chicago City Clerk website under Committee Meeting Web Stream Archive dated February 10th.)

Respectfully submitted by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J. Ervin', written over a horizontal line.

Jason C. Ervin, Chairman
Committee on the Budget and Government Operations