



CITY OF CHICAGO

COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
CITY COUNCIL
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
MONTHLY RULE 45 REPORT
MARCH 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 MARCH 2026 Meeting.

MONDAY, MARCH 11TH

Date, Time & Location of Meeting: On March 11, 2026, at 10:30 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), Dowell (3), Mitchell (7), Harris (8), Ramirez (12), Quinn (13), Lopez (15), O'Shea (19), Mosley (21), Rodriguez (22), Scott (24), Sigcho-Lopez (25), Burnett (27), Taliaferro (29), Cardona (31), Conway (34), Quezada (35), Mitts (37), Sposato (38), Nugent (39), Vasquez (40), Knudsen (43) and Martin (47).

The following members attended virtually: Yancy (5), Moore (17), Reilly (42) and Silverstein (50).

The following members were absent: La Spata (1), Robinson (4), Beale (9), Rodriguez-Sanchez (33), Villegas (36), Napolitano (41) and Hadden (49).

Internal witnesses present: **Office of Budget and Management (OBM):** Chloe Belczak, Deputy Budget Director; **Mayors Office:** Jesus DelToro, Senior Analyst, Nneka Obasi, Senior Community Liaison; Chicago **Department of Public Health (CDPH):** Laura Cowling, Projects Administrator, Madeline Shea, Assistant Commissioner, Ayla Karamustafa, Assistant Commissioner; **Chicago Department of Transportation (CDOT):** Anne Zhang, Deputy Commissioner; **Department of Planning and Development (DPD):** Antionette W. Maxwell, Financial Planning Analyst; **Chicago Police Department (CPD):** Anthony Serpe, Sergeant; **Office of Emergency Management and Communications (OEMC):** Glen Lyman, Deputy Director; **Office of Public Safety Administration (OPSA):** Daniel Casey, Managing Deputy Director, Tomas Maulawin, Director of Grants Management.

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

- **Approval of the Monthly Rule 45 Report of February 2026.**
- 1. Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2026 amendment within Fund 925.
(O2026-0023819)**
- 2. Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2026 amendment regarding Ward Wage Allowance Amounts.
(O2026-0023373)**
- 3. Redevelopment Agreement with Food Love LLC to provide Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF) assistance for improvement of Evelyn's Food Love at 5522 South State Street in the 20th Ward.
(O2026-0023340)**
- 4. Transfer of funds within 1st Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2026.
(O2026-0023212)**
- 5. Transfer of funds within 29th Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2026.
(O2026-0022545)**
- 6. Transfer of funds within 41st Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2026.
(O2026-0023356)**
- 7. Transfer of funds within 45th Ward Wage Allowance/Aldermanic Expense Account for Year 2026.
(O2026-0022588)**

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, Moore, Reilly and Silverstein to join virtually pursuant to Rule 59, so moved by Alderman Quinn. 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, Moore, Reilly and Silverstein confirmed their attendance. The Chair then opened the floor for public comment, seeing that no speakers signed up, he concluded and proceeded to the approval of the Rule 45 Report of February 2026, which report was transmitted electronically to the Membership. The Chair asked if there were any requests for discussion. Hearing no such requests, Alderman Mitts moved to approve the report. A vote was taken, and the report was approved.

Chairman Ervin took a moment to recognize Alderman Greg Mitchell for purposes of quorum, then continued 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 \$11,338,330 in Federal, State, Local and COVID grant awards for the Office of the Mayor, Chicago Department of Public Health, Chicago Police Department, Office of Emergency Management and 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 Aldermen O'Shea, Mosley, Sigcho-Lopez, Knudsen and Martin for purposes of quorum then proceeded to call on Alderman Lopez.

Alderman Lopez inquired if there was someone from CPD to expound on the \$846,000 for the Sustained Traffic Enforcement Program (STEP). Sergeant Anthony Serpe, Traffic Enforcement Unit identified himself for the record then proceeded to explain that those dollars are used throughout the city for speed missions, speed enforcement and weekly DUI missions. Alderman Lopez asked, is this for traffic stops? Sergeant Serpe replied yes, weekly stops. Alderman Lopez, stated that there are efforts afoot by CCPSA and District Councils and others to try to put an end to traffic stops, asking if we are incorporating them in the conversation when we are accepting funds for these endeavors? Also, commenting that he hates seeing us doing this program that is meant to increase public safety, while we have other people fighting against us, trying to do the exact mission. Tomas Maulawin, Director of Grants Management, OPSA stated his name for the record then assured the Alderman that they will create those conversations around this issue with traffic stop and ensure that CPD is able to comply with whatever requirements are put forward for this program. Alderman Lopez then requested them to report back to the Council through the Chair what that looks like and what the response is from those that you're inviting is. I would appreciate knowing that invitations are made and whether or not anyone takes you up on the offer to learn exactly what we're talking about. Director Maulawin replied, will do. Lastly, Alderman Lopez highlighted on page 8, the Department of Transportation, the Englewood Trail, thanked the department and team for working with both him and Alderman Coleman as well as the community to bring this to fruition. The Chairman thanked Alderman Lopez then acknowledged Aldermen Scott and Burnett for purposes of quorum.

The Chairman next called Alderman Mitts who requested someone walk her through the dollar amounts and provide more detail in reference to the OEMC grants, FEMA – IEMA, Preparedness and Recovery Response and the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery. Director Maulawin provided a brief overview of the awards, starting first with the Homeland Security Grant Program, which is to address the city's anti-terrorism and homeland security issues. Continuing to the second, totaling \$33,334 a federal funding through CDOT, in which OEMC uses those dollars to plan for hazardous material responses across the city of Chicago. The third, a Homeland Security Grant from the state of Illinois. Alderman Mitts asked if the American Rescue Plan Fiscal Recovery grant is for infrastructure? Director Maulawin responded no, and that the third one for OEMC is \$15,100 for preparedness and response. Alderman Mitts concluded and the Chair next recognized Alderman Dowell.

Alderman Dowell referenced the grant for the Office of Immigrant, Migrant, and Refugee Rights (IMMR) and asked Nneka Obasi to explain her role to the Body with regards to this request. Nneka Obasi, Senior Community Liaison (IMMR) introduced herself then stated that part of her role is liaising with the African diaspora communities, basically the Black immigrants of Chicago, and trying to ensure that whatever is available to all immigrants is also made available to them and focusing on the issues that affect them uniquely, making sure they are brought to the surface and that they are addressed. Alderman Dowell then asked, what can you tell us about the Cities in Action Program? Ms. Obasi referred the question to Jesus DelToro, Director of Policy and Strategic Initiatives (IMMR), who stated that he is the liaison for the Cities for Action Network, which is a coalition of 200 cities working to fight/advocate for immigrant rights nationally and at the state and local levels. Alderman Dowell commented that she wanted to make sure the work Ms. Obasi is doing was also connected to the work that's going on at the national level. Alderman Dowell thanked the IMMR representatives and concluded her questions.

The Chairman next recognized Alderman Mosley, who asked Ms. Obasi if these funds help our day labor situation at 87th and Dan Ryan? Director DelToro shared that they've worked with Alderman Mosley's office last year on this issue then stated that both of these grants will add additional capacity to their team

and allow them to continue to work with aldermanic offices when these issues arise. He then engaged Ms. Obasi who added that having a policy fellow will free us up to do some of the responses to emergent situations and then addressing needs. Alderman Mosley commented that we have seen a lot of disparity from those of African descent that came over, asking if this provides more equity in those situations? Ms. Obasi answered, I believe so as it allows us to put more focus on this group and help us address things like language access, people don't realize how linguistically diverse the African diaspora is and how there's a need to go beyond the five languages that are usually translated to address their linguistic needs. Alderman Mosley inquired on how the City has improved in that area since efforts have begun? Ms. Obasi replied that since she has been there materials that were just available in English and Spanish have been translated into Haitian, Creole, French and Wolof, which at the time, especially from the new arrivals mission, were the most important languages for the African diaspora community. Beyond that we have translations in Amharic and other diaspora languages. Lastly, Alderman Mosley inquired on the thought process for this position, is this going to be limited to the grant funding and when the funding is out will the position no longer exist, or is the department planning to later figure out how this works for the corporate fund? Director DelToro stated the goal is for those positions to be temporary. Once the funding is gone the positions are sunset. Alderman Mosley thanked the Chair then concluded.

The Chairman queried the members for questions before opening the floor to Alderman Lopez, seeing none, Alderman Lopez proceeded to ask about outcomes for migrants and what are the metrics for the outcomes of success with the programs that the office is doing overall? Director DelToro started with the outcomes for the two positions, one is to ensure that the policy fellow is producing policy analysis and reports, the second position is to ensure that they're doing the day-to-day operations and strengthening the Coalition of Cities. For the team, the focus is to reach new communities, in particular, Nneka's work and advancing that work by adding additional coalitions, this year's focus is the Southeast Asian communities. He then asked Ms. Obasi if she had anything to add, and she conveyed the next phase of her work, which was an issue raised and came out of the task force for Black immigrants, put together by the governor's office at the recommendation of Honorable Sonya Harper, resulting in Ms. Obasi doing events in conjunction with some Alders to build a coalition between Black immigrants and the African American community, because Black immigrants are minorities as immigrants and they're also minorities in America. Alderman Lopez then asked if this individual would handle the African immigrant concerns while you are focusing on reparations. Ms. Obasi explained that she did not say anything about reparations and referenced the Black immigrant task force put together by the governor's office to examine what the unique needs of Black immigrants are. Further, what came out was a need to increase a coalition between Black immigrants and Black Americans since they face some of the same issues within the country. Alderman Lopez voiced his concern with how IMMR was trying to expand their scope by intermixing those individuals in this country who consider themselves descendants of slaves and don't necessarily see themselves as being immigrants and how the tens of thousands of long-term undocumented individuals have been lumped in with the new arrivals. In closing, he stated he would like to see some better intentionality when discussing these groups, because trying to paint everyone in broad strokes to create a mission is an absolute failure and concluded his remarks.

Chairman Ervin next acknowledged Alderman Dowell who offered a point of clarification on behalf of Ms. Obasi, stating that they are trying to draw a better bridge between immigrants and the African diaspora, who were actually ignored early on until people who had been here raised that issue about their inclusion. She further applauded the work of Ms. Obasi and IMMR, thanked the Chairman then closed. The Chair queried the members for additional questions related to the 925, seeing there were none, acknowledged Alderman Harris'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 March 18, 2026.

Chairman Ervin moved to Item #3, a Redevelopment Agreement with Food Love LLC to provide Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF) assistance for improvement of Evelyn's Food Love at 5522 South State Street in the 20th Ward. Chairman recognized Antionette Maxwell from DPD for the purpose of providing a presentation on the RDA. The speaker greeted the Chairman and Body, and stated for the record that she was Antionette Maxwell, Financial Planning Analyst in the Department of Planning & Development. She conveyed being here today to request the Committee's approval for the City to enter into a Neighborhood Opportunity Fund Redevelopment Agreement with Evelyn's Food Love, authorizing the use of up to \$483,000 of NOF funding for the project, which includes adding a rooftop deck and bar on top of the existing restaurant structure, which would increase the square footage to 2,936 from the current 1,600 square feet. The restaurant currently seats 40, the rooftop is projected to add another 30 to 40 seats and will also include the addition of a new bathroom, new doors, and an updated façade. We are awarding \$483,000 to support a project cost of \$653,000, sources include \$70,000 in equity and a senior loan of \$100,000. The project is expected to begin March 2026 with a completion date of September 2026. The staff recommendation is that it passes in City council March 18th. The developer aspires to create up to 15 full-time and part-time employment opportunities. The project will continue to meet and fill a community gap of dine-in establishments within the Washington Park community area. Ms. Maxwell concluded the presentation and thanked the Body, bidding for its favorable consideration for support and acknowledged Evelyn Love was unable to attend due to a family emergency and then she welcomed questions. Chairman Ervin took a moment to acknowledge letters of support from Alderman Taylor as well as John Paul Jones, President of Sustainable Englewood Initiatives, then opened the floor, recognized Alderman Dowell. Alderman Dowell conveyed her support for this project stating that Evelyn was previously in the 3rd Ward but is now in the 20th Ward, she gave her well wishes and thanked her for her work. The Chair acknowledged Alderman Dowell's Motion for Move Do Pass on Item#3, 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, March 18, 2026.

Chairman Ervin continued to Items 4 through 7, Transfer of Fund Ordinances. Substitutes were proposed for Item #5, the 29th Ward and Item #6, the 41st Ward, which substitute ordinances had been distributed to Committee Members, then queried for a Motion to accept the substitutes, so Moved by Alderman Mitchell. 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, next solicited a Motion to pass Items 4 through 7, which transfer ordinances included Wards 1, 29, 41 and 45 all for Year 2026, so Moved by Alderman Mitts. 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, to be reported out at the next regular City Council Meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2026.

Chairman Ervin returned to Item# 2 of the agenda, an Annual Appropriation Ordinance Year 2026 amendment regarding Ward Wage Allowance Amounts. A substitute ordinance was presented and passed out to all Members by Alderman Nugent. The Chair asked was there a motion to accept the substitute, so Moved by Alderman Nugent. He next 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 Substitute was before the Committee. The Chair then recognized Alderman Nugent, Sponsor of the Ordinance, who explained the Aldermen that signed on to it will be returning their portion of the vice mayor money to support the budget. The Chairman queried if there were any other questions, then called Alderman Conway who stated that he thought the original ordinance had every ward doing it, then asked, was that not allowable. The Chair clarified that it is allowable, the question was if everybody on board with that? After a conversation with President Pro Tem Nugent, she stated that it was for those that wanted to opt in, which then generated the substitute on today. Alderman Conway voiced his thoughts on each wards participation then concluded. The Chair asked if there was a motion to accept Item #2, Alderman Nugent 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, March 18, 2026.

The Committee on the Budget and Government Operations having no further business, on Motion made by Alderman Scott 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 March 11th.)

Respectfully submitted by:



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