

1 BY AUTHORITY

2 ORDINANCE NO. _____
3 SERIES OF 2026

COUNCIL BILL NO. _____
COMMITTEE OF

4 REFERENCE:
5

6 A BILL
7

8 **For an ordinance amending Article II of Chapter 20 of the Denver Revised**
9 **Municipal Code by adding procedures for the Mayor and City Council to consider**
10 **and address changes in the City’s budget and requiring a community**
11 **engagement process for budget planning in a two-year budget term.**
12

13 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER:**

14 **Section 1.** That section 20-27 of the Code shall be amended by deleting the language
15 stricken and adding the language underlined, to read as follows:

16 **Sec. 20-27. Financial reporting to city council.**

17 (a) Within forty-five (45) days after the end of the calendar quarter, the manager of finance
18 shall issue a quarterly communication to city council describing the financial status of the city.

19 (b) The communication required by subsection (a) shall describe the financial status of the
20 city and shall include the following to the extent known at the time of the communication:

- 21 (1) General Fund revenue collected year to date through the end of the preceding quarter;
- 22 (2) General Fund revenue projections, when updated, for remainder of the fiscal year;
- 23 (3) The projected year-end unassigned fund balance of the general fund; and
- 24 (4) An accounting of all city expenditures, at the cost center and account code level as

25 maintained in the financial system of record, from the general fund year-to-date through the end of
26 the preceding quarter, except that

27 (c) The manager shall not disclose financial information in subsection (b) that conflicts with
28 the timing of, or otherwise interferes with, market disclosures.

29 (d) Subsections (b)(1)—(3) shall be read at the next regularly scheduled city council
30 meeting following the communication.

31 (e) Within forty-five (45) days after the end of the calendar quarter, the manager, executive
32 director, or chief officer of any agency that utilizes contracts for on-call services shall issue a
33 communication listing how the on-call contracts were spent. A notification of that communication
34 shall be read at the next regularly scheduled city council meeting.

35 (f) If, during a fiscal year, the Mayor determines either that revised revenue projections

1 for the full fiscal year are lower than the revenues projected in the budget for that fiscal year by an
2 amount of two percent or more, or that projected expenditures for the fiscal year exceed total
3 appropriations for that fiscal year by an amount of two percent or more, the Mayor shall promptly
4 provide notice to Council. The notification shall include, to the extent known at the time of the
5 communication:

6 (1) The amount by which revenue projections are lower than the revenues
7 projected in the budget or the amount by which projected expenditures exceed total
8 appropriations for that fiscal year;

9 (2) The information required by subsection (b), if that information has changed
10 since the last quarterly report;

11 (3) An explanation of any steps taken by the Mayor or the manager of finance in
12 response to the revised revenue projections or increased expenditures; and

13 (4) Any additional information available to explain the revised revenue projections,
14 increased expenditures, or changed financial circumstances.

15 (g) If the Mayor notifies Council that the revised revenue projections for the current fiscal
16 year are lower than the revenues projected in the budget for that fiscal year by an amount of five
17 percent or more, or that the expected expenditures for the fiscal year exceed total appropriations by
18 five percent or more, in addition to providing the notification required by subsection (f), the Mayor
19 shall propose a plan to reduce or adjust appropriations to balance the budget. Council shall act by
20 ordinance to consider and adopt the reduced appropriations. If Council fails to adopt an ordinance
21 to reduce appropriations, the plan proposed by the Mayor takes effect.

22 **Section 2.** That chapter 27, article II, of the Code shall be amended by adding the language
23 underlined, to read as follows:

24 **Sec. 20-28. Financial planning; public engagement.**

25 (a) In advance of each budget term, the Mayor shall conduct a community engagement
26 effort to gather public feedback on the city's priorities for the upcoming budget term. To the extent
27 practicable, the engagement effort shall include a courtesy public hearing in addition to other
28 information gathering techniques. The community engagement effort must allow Denver residents
29 to provide substantive feedback on the City's goals, organizational and operational priorities, capital
30 improvement plans, city services, community needs, and other areas as determined by the Mayor.

31 (b) On or before the third Monday in July of the year preceding a new budget term, the
32 Mayor shall create a report explaining the community engagement process, summarizing the
33 information collected, identifying key takeaways, and identifying opportunities to incorporate
34 community feedback into the City's budget for the next budget term. The Mayor shall provide the

1 report to Council and shall publish the report on the City's website or through similar means.

2 **Section 3.** This ordinance shall only be effective after certification of passage by electors of
3 a referred question amending the Charter of the City and County of Denver to adjust the City and
4 County's budget and appropriation process at a special municipal election to be held in conjunction
5 with the general election of November 3, 2026, and upon publication and filing of such results with
6 the Secretary of State.

7
8 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: _____, 2026.

9 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: _____, 2026.

10 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL _____ 2026

11 _____ - PRESIDENT

12 APPROVED: _____ - MAYOR _____ 2026

13 ATTEST: _____ - CLERK AND RECORDER,
14 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE
15 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER
16

17 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DENVER POST _____ 2026; _____ 2026

18
19 PREPARED BY: _____; DATE: _____
20

21 Pursuant to section 13-9, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of the
22 City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form and have no legal objection to the proposed
23 ordinance. The proposed ordinance _____ is/_____ is not submitted to the City Council for approval
24 pursuant to § 3.2.6 of the Charter.
25

26 Miko Ando Brown, Denver City Attorney

27
28 BY: _____, _____ City Attorney DATE: _____