

1 **BY AUTHORITY**

2 ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
3 SERIES OF 2021

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB21-0078  
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:  
FINANCE & GOVERNANCE

5 **A BILL**

6 **For an ordinance reorganizing and amending Chapter 20, Article XI of the**  
7 **Denver Revised Municipal Code regarding Auditor subpoena power in**  
8 **connection with performance of internal audits and investigations and**  
9 **enforcement of prevailing and minimum wage.**  
10

11 **WHEREAS**, the Denver Auditor has certain mandatory auditing responsibilities pursuant to  
12 Denver's charter and city code;

13 **WHEREAS**, the Denver Auditor has also been charged with enforcement of certain city  
14 wage ordinances;

15 **WHEREAS**, in recent years certain third parties have failed to timely produce documents to  
16 facilitate the efficient and timely completion of the Auditor's duties; and

17 **WHEREAS**, when external third parties possess and refuse to voluntarily disclose  
18 information related to a performance or financial audit or are alleged to have violated Denver's  
19 wage ordinances subpoena power will assist the Auditor in performing his or her duties as  
20 prescribed by Denver's charter and city code.

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

22 **Section 1.** That section 20-278 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code shall be  
23 amended and reorganized by adding the language underlined and deleting the language  
24 stricken to read as follows:

25 Sec. 20-2789. - Auditor's annual budget.

26 **Section 2.** A new Section 20-278 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code shall be added  
27 which is comprised of the language underlined and read as follows:

28 **Sec. 20-278. – Records and subpoenas**

29 (a) In connection with performance of audits as provided in section 20-275 of the D.R.M.C.,  
30 and in connection with investigations and/or enforcement of D.R.M.C. section 20-76 and  
31 sections 58-16, 58-17 and 58-18, the auditor may request production of books and records  
32 from persons and entities and testimony from persons knowledgeable of books and records

1 requested. The auditor may subpoena documents and witnesses if a written request for  
2 production of books, records and/or testimony made to a person or entity other than a city  
3 officer or employee has not been fully complied with for fifteen (15) calendar days or more from  
4 the date a request was issued.

5 (b) The auditor may serve a subpoena authorized by this section as provided in C.R.C.P. 4(e)  
6 or by certified mail to the subpoenaed party at the last address of the person or entity known to  
7 the auditor.

8 (c) Any subpoena issued pursuant to this section shall provide at least fifteen (15) calendar  
9 days for compliance. Any party receiving a subpoena shall be entitled to file an appropriate  
10 pleading in the district court of the second judicial district to contest production of part or all of  
11 the documents or testimony subpoenaed, provided it does so within fifteen (15) calendar days  
12 of issuance of the subpoena. All documents and testimony that is not subject to a timely  
13 written pleading contesting production in accordance with this subsection (c) shall be  
14 produced. Prior to filing an initial pleading contesting a subpoena, the subpoenaed party shall  
15 provide a written notice to the auditor which specifies in detail all legal grounds upon which the  
16 subpoenaed party contends the subpoena to be improper and also describes in detail what  
17 documents or testimony are not being timely produced. If a pleading seeks modification of a  
18 subpoena, any documents or testimony not specifically objected to shall be timely produced in  
19 accordance with the subpoena and any failure to do so shall be a violation of this section.

20 (d) Should a party fail to comply with a subpoena, or a pleading in accordance with subsection  
21 (c) be filed, the auditor may apply to the district court of the second judicial district for review  
22 and enforcement of a subpoena issued pursuant to this section.

23 (e) It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to refuse to obey a subpoena issued by the  
24 auditor. Failure to obey a subpoena shall constitute a non-criminal violation of the code and  
25 any violator shall be assessed a penalty of up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for each day a  
26 failure to produce books, records and/or testimony shall continue. If a timely pleading is filed  
27 consistent with the terms of subsection (c), penalties for noncompliance, with respect to  
28 documents and testimony subject to relief requested therein only, shall not begin to accrue  
29 until the subpoenaed party fails to timely comply with any court-ordered production.

30 (f) No penalty for failure to comply with an auditor subpoena shall apply if the auditor and  
31 subpoenaed party reach a mutual agreement concerning the timing and scope of documents  
32 or testimony to be produced and production and/or testimony is proffered consistent with that  
33 agreement. Additionally, and no more than once in any three (3) year period, should the

1 Auditor find that any failure to obey a subpoena issued to a particular person or entity pursuant  
2 to this section was the result of a good faith mistake, and the person or entity immediately and  
3 fully complies with the subpoena after notification by the auditor’s office, the penalty described  
4 in this section may be waived in the discretion of the auditor.

5 (g) The auditor shall track subpoenas issued pursuant to this section during each calendar  
6 year, if any. No later than March 31 of the following year, the auditor shall submit a written  
7 report to City Council documenting the number of subpoenas issued in the prior calendar year.

8 **Section 3.** That section 20-279 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code shall be  
9 amended and reorganized by adding the language underlined and deleting the language  
10 stricken to read as follows:

11 Sec. 20-27980. – Audit committee terms and vacancies.

12 **Section 4.** That section 20-280 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code shall be  
13 amended and reorganized by adding the language underlined and deleting the language  
14 stricken to read as follows:

15 Sec. 20-2801. – Audit committee oversight of external audit.

16 **Section 5.** That section 20-281 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code shall be  
17 amended and reorganized by adding the language underlined and deleting the language  
18 stricken to read as follows:

19 Sec. 20-2842. – Audit committee and contract countersignatures.

20 **Section 6.** That section 20-282 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code shall be  
21 amended and reorganized by adding the language underlined and deleting the language  
22 stricken to read as follows:

23 Sec. 20-2823. – Audit committee meetings.

24 **Section 7.** This ordinance shall be effective immediately upon its final passage and  
25 publication, as provided by the Charter.

26

27 **[THE REMAINDER OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]**

28

1 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: April 20, 2021

2 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: April 27, 2021 by Consent

3 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL: \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_ - PRESIDENT

5 APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_ - MAYOR \_\_\_\_\_

6 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER,  
7 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
8 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER

9 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DAILY JOURNAL: \_\_\_\_\_ ; \_\_\_\_\_

10 PREPARED BY: Mitch T. Behr, Assistant City Attorney DATE: April 29, 2021

11 Pursuant to section 13-12, D.R.M.C., this proposed ordinance has been reviewed by the office of  
12 the City Attorney. We find no irregularity as to form, and have no legal objection to the proposed  
13 ordinance. The proposed ordinance is not submitted to the City Council for approval pursuant to  
14 §3.2.6 of the Charter.

15 Kristin M. Bronson, Denver City Attorney

16 BY: Jonathan Griffin, Assistant City Attorney

DATE: Apr 29, 2021