

BY AUTHORITY

ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
SERIES OF 2026

COUNCIL BILL NO. CB26-0867  
COMMITTEE OF REFERENCE:

Governance and Intergovernmental Relations

A BILL

**For an ordinance amending Article II of Chapter 20 of the Denver Revised Municipal Code by adding procedures for the Mayor and City Council to consider and address changes in the City's budget and requiring a community engagement process for budget planning.**

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

**Section 1.** That chapter 27, article II, of the Code shall be amended by adding the language underlined, to read as follows:

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

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

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

- (1) General Fund revenue collected year to date through the end of the preceding quarter;
- (2) General Fund revenue projections, when updated, for remainder of the fiscal year;
- (3) The projected year-end unassigned fund balance of the general fund; and
- (4) An accounting of all city expenditures, at the cost center and account code level as maintained in the financial system of record, from the general fund year-to-date through the end of the preceding quarter, except that

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

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

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

(f) If, during a fiscal year, the Mayor determines either that revised revenue projections for the full fiscal year are lower than the revenues projected in the budget for that fiscal year by an

amount of two percent or more, or that projected expenditures for the fiscal year exceed total appropriations for that fiscal year by an amount of two percent or more, the Mayor shall promptly provide notice to Council. The notification shall include, to the extent known at the time of the communication:

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

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

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

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

(g) If the Mayor notifies Council that the revised revenue projections for the current fiscal year are lower than the revenues projected in the budget for that fiscal year by five percent or more, or that the expected expenditures for the fiscal year exceed total appropriations by five percent or more, in addition to the notification required by subsection (f), the Mayor and the Manager of Finance shall recommend to Council an ordinance to reduce or adjust appropriations to offset the change in expenditures or revenues. If Council fails to adopt an ordinance to offset the change in expenditures or revenues within thirty (30) days of filing, the recommended ordinance takes effect as though the ordinance had been enacted and appropriations shall be adjusted accordingly.

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

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

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

1 **Secs. 20-2829—20-30. - Reserved.**

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

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9 COMMITTEE APPROVAL DATE: June 30, 2026

10 MAYOR-COUNCIL DATE: July 7, 2026 by Consent

11 PASSED BY THE COUNCIL 07/20/2026

12 Signed by:  
Diana Romero Campbell - PRESIDENT  
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13 Signed by:  
 APPROVED: Michael Johnston - MAYOR 7/22/2026  
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14 ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_ - CLERK AND RECORDER,  
 15 EX-OFFICIO CLERK OF THE  
 16 CITY AND COUNTY OF DENVER  
 17

18 NOTICE PUBLISHED IN THE DENVER POST \_\_\_\_\_; \_\_\_\_\_

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20 PREPARED BY: Megan Waples, Assistant City Attorney; DATE: July 9, 2026

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

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27 Miko Ando Brown, Denver City Attorney

28 Signed by:  
 29 BY: Laurie K. S., Assistant City Attorney DATE: 7/9/2026 | 11:02 AM MDT  
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