

10/27 City Council Budget Hearing

Sent on 10/28/2025

Unanswered Questions/Requests for Follow-up:

MO

1. Lewis - How was the City Council involved in the lay-off process?
 - **Answer:** The City Council was not directly involved in the lay-off process as the management of personnel issues is held within the authority of the Executive Branch. While we did not communicate names or numbers of laid off employees with City Council prior to the communications to the impacted individuals, the Mayor's Office made multiple efforts to keep the City Council apprised of where we were in the 2026 Budget Process through numerous 1:1s and agency presentations at Mayor-Council as well as the personnel impacts in 2025.
2. Parady - MO - Mayor's Office vacant positions - What is budgeted for each of these 4 vacant positions (COO, Executive Director of the Mayor's Office, Press Secretary, Business Operations Administrator), and what are they actually categorized as under the career services classification system? For example, I don't see a job title of press secretary, but I do see various classifications of marketing & communications staff.
 - **Answer:** Through the FY26 budget process, the Mayor's Office eliminated 11 budgeted positions--including 7 appointees and 4 CSA positions—resulting in a 22% reduction in total staffing. Only four vacant positions remain and have been purposely held vacant during the citywide hiring freeze.

Position Number	Job Title	Classification	FY26 Total Compensation (salary + fringe)
55653	Chief of Staff Scheduler and Assistant	Business Operations Administrator	\$106,805
67172	Executive Director of Administration	Deputy Manager	\$237,692
5565	Chief Operating Officer	Deputy Executive Director	\$326,490
79300	Press Secretary	Marketing and Communications Specialist	\$162,093

DOF

3. Alvidrez - Please provide the 2024 Bond Ratings.

- **Answer:** We have attached the email we sent to the District 7 office in July with the 2024 ratings reports from Fitch, Moody's, and S&P Global.

4. Alvidrez - What is the annual rent for each of the three properties: Comfort Inn, Denver Post, and Republic Plaza? Is there a way to dissolve any of the rental agreements and what would be the cost to do so?

- **Answer:** The city aims to avoid breaking leases because doing so will impair our ability to enter into future leases and can impact our credit worthiness as a tenant. The city already has strict provisions that go into our leases that not all landlords want to agree to. Our reputation and credit worthiness is a primary factor driving our ability to lease space for dozens of city activities, including DMV and DHS facilities, City Council offices, DEDO and TS-Community Media leases, Office of the Medical Examiner, and HOST, among many others.

- **Comfort Inn**

1. Size: 138 Rooms
2. Rent: \$120/per room/per night. Over the past year the monthly rent has fluctuated between \$463,680 (28 days) to \$513,360 (31 days).
3. Expiration: December 31, 2025, subject to proposed 3-month lease extension.
4. Termination: Only if Landlord defaults.

- **Republic Plaza – District Attorney Space**

1. Size: 73,924 RSF (3 floors)
2. Rent: \$252,696.24/month
3. Term: March 18, 2024 through March 17, 2037
4. Termination: Only if Landlord defaults

- **Republic Plaza – Temporary City Space**

1. Size: 72,209 RSF (3 floors)
2. Rent: \$136,896/month stepping up to \$141,409/month on January 1, 2026
3. Term: Ends December 31, 2026
4. Termination: Only if Landlord defaults.

- **Denver Post:** \$165,667 per month through October 31, 2029. Currently under discussion.
- The city's lease at Republic Plaza includes both temporary space for city employees while the Webb refresh wraps up, and permanent space on three floors for the District Attorney. These floors have been built out and equipped for the DA's needs. Long-term, the city's plan has been to centralize downtown city staff and courts functions into city-owned buildings, not leased space. Starting in 2027, the city's lease costs at Republic Plaza will be limited to the DA's floors.

5. Torres – Re: C&R - Secretary of State reimbursement questions - Can we look at a few previous elections - How long does it take to receive the reimbursement? How is it processed and reflected in the Budget Book? What year is it reflected in the budget book?

- **Answer:** It takes about 4-6 months after an election to receive reimbursement. For example, C&R will submit the documentation for reimbursement for allowable expenditures incurred during the 2025 November election by the end of December/beginning of January. Then C&R will receive reimbursement in April/May of 2026. The 2026 budget book revenue projections in C&R reflect revenue from the 2025 November general elections and the 2026 primary elections. C&R is reimbursed up to 45% of State election costs. C&R is not reimbursed for municipal elections.

6. Alvidrez - The Clerk & Recorder expects to return funds in 2025, yet we're being told there isn't money to fund the Public Trustee this year. Can you explain why both would be true?

- Specifically, could you provide:
 1. The amount, fund, and timing of the Clerk & Recorder's 2025 giveback (and whether any of it is encumbered, restricted, or vacancy-savings).
 2. The current funding source and appropriation status for the Public Trustee function/FTE (org, fund, project/grant if applicable), and what's preventing use (cash vs. spending authority vs. position/freeze).
 3. Whether the constraint is HR/position control (FTE cap or hiring freeze) rather than dollars—and what action (transfer, supplemental, unfreeze, or reclass) would resolve it.

4. Options to cover the Public Trustee this year using the Clerk's anticipated savings/giveback or another available source, plus any statutory constraints.
 5. Please include relevant chartfields, current balances, and any BMO notes so we can evaluate a path forward.
- **Answer:** There has been and continues to be uncertainty around how much of the Clerk & Recorder's 2025 budget will remain unspent. BMO is currently projecting about \$1M. This amount has evolved as the November ballot was finalized.
 - Any return of budget would occur based on the amount left unspent in the C&R's 2025 budget. 2025 actuals will be finalized in early 2026.
 - The public trustee position (position number 49506, classified as a "Manager") is funded out of the General Fund in the Recording Division (01010-0702000-0702300). There is currently \$1.054M in remaining personnel budget in this control. For much of the year DOF was concerned about C&R's ability to stay within budget due to unknowns regarding the size of the November ballot. Now that we know it's only a 2-card ballot instead of a 3 or 4 card ballot, C&R is projected to stay within budget and even return \$1M this year. Additionally, the final 2026 budget for C&R is still underway and the Department of Finance would also want to be able to assure the C&R could stay within budget next year.
 - The Department of Finance approves job requisitions to ensure agencies have budget capacity to cover the cost of potential hires.
7. Sandoval – Clarity on page 488 of the Budget Book regarding the CO Secretary of State reimbursement, when does this come in?
 - **Answer:** Please see a comprehensive response in question number 5 above.
 8. Watson - What is the allowable use of the Special Revenue Funds for Transportation Mobility? What is the deliberative process is to identify use case, how are current use cases determined?
 - **Answer:** Ensuring our decisions are legally sound is of utmost importance. The Department of Finance works with CAO's Muni Ops division to this end. We will have more to share on T&M tomorrow.
 9. Alvidrez - Contract request – Brookfield Lots?

- **Answer:** This contract is an IGA between the city and the Denver Downtown Development Authority to serve as a mechanism to transfer DDDA TIF funds for the DDDA's acquisition of the Brookfield Surface Parking Lots, as approved unanimously by the DDDA Board on July 30, 2025. This IGA implements the DDDA Board's July 30th vote and Denver City Council's September 29th vote to approve the petition for DDA inclusion for the Brookfield Lots. The source of funds is the DDDA tax increment authorized by voters in November 2024 for use on DDDA projects and prevented by state law from being used elsewhere.

A copy of the executed DDDA Board Resolution is attached. The IGA contract itself is still being drafted. The city will share it in detail once it is ready to be filed for council consideration. In the meantime, we have offered briefings on this IGA and would love to meet with your office to discuss.

10. Alvidrez - Provide the page # of the budget book that shares the formula for vacancy savings

- **Answer:** Please refer to pages 55-56 in the Budget Book.

11. Gilmore – Please provide the breakdown of the last 5-years of Elevate bond interest savings.

- **Answer:** This was included in the Santa Fe Yards slide deck and public presentations, shared with Councilmembers during 1:1 briefings and committee/council meetings before the IGA was approved in May 2025. Please refer to [slide 20 in the April 2025 deck](#) available on Legistar or to this table of Elevate bond interest earnings, by year, below:

2018	\$1,103,706
2019	\$3,903,405
2020	\$5,012,889
2021	\$6,236,553
2022	\$7,174,476
2023	\$12,059,734
2024	\$13,329,061
2025 Hybrid	\$9,192,897
2026 Proj.	\$2,486,431

12. Gilmore – Please provide the calculation/analysis to determine if we as a city are going to have too many Capital Investment Projects going on without enough staff to support the projects.

Answer: The CPP team works closely with agency partners and the Budget and Management Office to ensure that capital dollars are directed to areas that can be delivered with current operational capacities. This includes assessing historic levels of spend within reinvestment programs to determine if all appropriated dollars are being spent or programmed in a reasonable manner, reviewing the pipeline of what projects are in progress and what funding is remaining that still needs to be spent down, and discussing staffing levels with the agencies. CPP's funding recommendations are informed heavily by these steps. CPP's current recommendations are to focus on "clearing the pipeline" of existing plans and in-flight projects and supporting programs that do have adequate staffing levels and have a clearly defined workplan.

OSEI

13. Gonzales-Gutierrez - OSEI - HYPE Program – The Budget Book (*Page 265 - Eliminate the HYPE Program and associated filled positions, including 2 Diversion and Criminal Justice Officers, a Program Manager, and a Program Administrator. (4.00) (436,600)*) shows an elimination of the HYPE program but the H&S Presentation from ONS last week suggested otherwise. Can we have clarity on the HYPE program?

- **Answer:** HYPE programming initiatives will continue as part of OSEI/ONS work under the proposed, consolidated budget. We will remain proactive in identifying and securing additional resources as new opportunities arise.

14. Lewis - Awardees re: the HYPE program saw their contracts cut in August, can we speak to this?

- **Answer:** The Urban Farm contract was not cut in 2025 and expires at the end of the year.

15. Watson - What is the transition of funds from the HYPE program to other programs focused on similar youth intervention and youth diversion programs?

- **Answer:** There has been no transition of funds from HYPE to other programs. However, within the proposed budget, HYPE will be involved in the development of YVP programming in OSEI.

OCA

16. Alvidrez - OCA – Funding for afterschool time care, can we provide a list of organizations and those that are high usage and which are smaller grantees?

- **Answer:** Comprehensive OST partners- high dosage
 - Boys & Girls Club of Metro Denver
 - Colorado Dream Foundation
 - Girls Inc. of Metro Denver
 - Heart & Hand (recently closed)
 - Mile High 360
 - Metro State University
 - Scholars Unlimited
 - Simms-Fayola Foundation
 - Struggle of Love Foundation
 - Sun Valley Youth Center
 - VIVE Wellness
 - YMCA of Metro Denver
- **Answer:** Content Specific OST & YVP Partners
 - Ability Connections Colorado
 - Art Garage
 - Athletics & Beyond
 - Colorado Changemakers Collective
 - Colorado High Country Education Treks
 - Colorado Youth for a Change
 - Consumption Literacy Project
 - Convivir Colorado
 - Colorado Children's Advocacy Center
 - Environmental Learning for Kids
 - Feel the Beat Corp
 - Servicios de la Raza
 - Make a Chess Move
 - New Cottage Arts
 - Platte Forum
 - Salvation Army
 - SOAR- Seeing Our Adolescents Rise
 - Young African American Social and Political Activism
 - Youth on Record
 - Celebrate the Beat
 - In Lakeche Arts
 - Cottonwood Institute
 - El Sistema
 - Girls on the Run of the Rockies
 - Museo de las Americas
 - Pedaling Minds Inc.
 - Queenship

- Su Teatro Inc.
- Vuela for Health

- Hecho en Westwood

Note- OCA provides supplemental funding for these organizations and does not fully fund any community-based organization. All of these organizations need to braid funds in order to operate.

17. Gonzales-Gutierrez - Broncos Fund:

- How much is in it?
 - **Answer:** Current Cash Balance: \$9,723,877
 - **Answer:** Initial Deposited Amount: \$12,543,777
- Specifics on what is remaining & what it is being spent on in 2026?
 - **Answer:** As shared last night (10/27) during Public Comment, the \$3.5 million named in the budget book is an amount that allows OCA to spend up to that amount. OCA continues to work with a cross-functional group of city partners to identify strategies to deploy these funds for OST programs, bolster youth employment opportunities, and support the broader goal to make Denver more child and family friendly.

18. *CP Sandoval has questions for OCA that she said she will send over to Angela*

19. **Alvidrez** (*Received via email on 10/28*) Regarding Youth on Record, I understand they received \$200,097 from OCA during 2024 and 2025. Please let me know if OCA is still able to fund Youth on Record for 2026, and if so, what amount will be awarded to them? Lastly, I understand funds are tight for all city agencies, yet I must still ask, are there opportunities to shift funding to bolster not only Youth on Record, but after school time programming in general. We ask because keeping youth engaged and out of trouble is one of the best ways to prevent crime and avoid youth from entering the justice system.

- **Answer:** OCA releases an annual RFP for youth programs. Because the amount of money that is granted out to community-based organizations is dependent on the appropriation approved by Council in the budget process, we are unable to enter in to multi-year contracts with content specific OST providers and YVP providers. Each year, organizations need to apply for funding and each year a review committee puts forward recommendations for funding. Youth on Record is a valued partner doing amazing work for Denver youth. They typically put forward a strong application which is

reflected in our continued funding for them and we anticipate they will continue to do so. However, we cannot guarantee any organization will be funded in any given year or for any given amount.

It is also our belief, and the data supports, that robust youth development programs and connections with trusted adults are essential strategies to curb the presence of youth violence and crime. The overwhelming majority of our allocated budget already goes toward supporting these types of programs and we will continue that practice.

I've also included a breakdown of Youth on Record's funding from OCA over the last two years just for more information.

2024

Broncos Fund- \$25K

YVP- \$76.5K

2025

YVP- \$83,597

YVP (purchase order) \$15K

Total: \$200,097

HOST

20. Romero Campbell - Family Shelter testimonies:

- From HOSTs perspective, what is the feasibility of shelter location and cost to standup another family shelter?
 - **Answer:** For operations only, to operate a congregate family shelter, it would be approximately \$60/night/bed. To operate a non-congregate family shelter, it would be approximately \$100/night. Lease/purchase and maintenance costs would all be additional and would depend on the specific location being contemplated.
- If we have 250 people on a wait list; is it 250 families; what is our capacity?
 - **Answer:** We have 230 families on the waitlist. Our capacity is 303 units. The capacity for families and people depends on family size and need, etc. However, for the most part, each unit can accommodate one family.

21. Alvidrez (received via email on 10/28) - Could we receive additional details on the newly proposed homeless shelter? Specifically, does the City plan to collaborate with the State? It appears that Denver may be addressing what seems to be a statewide issue rather than solely a citywide one.

- **Answer:**

General Services

22. Alvidrez - Can we provide a response on cuts to City janitorial contracts that were shared during public comment and the impact to the cleanliness of the building? (During PC a few members of the janitorial team shared that their contracts/hours were being cut. They shared that it was impacting their livelihoods and the cleanliness of the City buildings).

- **Answer:** As part of General Services budget reductions for the 2026 budget, General Services eliminated 24 positions including 16 in our Facilities Management Division where janitorial services are managed and supplemented with city staff. Facilities Management is evaluating the current janitorial scope in partnership with janitorial providers to better balance reductions with building use and occupancy. Priority areas, including bathrooms and common spaces, will continue to be a focus. Additionally, city janitorial/utility staff are supplementing janitorial in select facilities to reduce the impacts of contracted service cuts, but the budget no longer supports the former level of service or frequency of cleaning.

Safety

23. Parady - Would like to know what positions are vacant and funded in the DOS under Finance & HR umbrellas?

- **Answer:** The budgeted FTE for Safety Finance and Safety HR can be found at page 554 of the October Draft of the Budget Book. Safety Finance is budgeted for 14.2 positions with one current budgeted vacancy (Associate Accountant). In addition, four positions in Safety Finance have been abolished as part of the Department of Safety's 2026 budget reductions (Finance Director, Senior Finance Analyst, Staff Accountant, Associate Accountant).

- Safety Human Resources is budgeted for 27 positions with two current budgeted vacancies (Recruiting Manager and Senior Human Resources Business Partner).

24. Gonzales-Gutierrez – Mounted patrol amounts, including how many CSA staff are needed to care for the horses.

- **Answer:** The Denver Police Department Mounted Patrol Unit (MPU) operates Wednesday through Saturday from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. The unit consists of four officers, 1 CSA position (Stablemaster) and five horses. All five horses—and the associated saddles, reins, and headstalls—were donated by the Denver Police Foundation.

The budgeted personnel costs for mounted patrol as follows: \$657K (4 - Officer positions; 1 CSA position). The 2024 operational costs for mounted patrol was approximately \$48K which includes; \$3K on utilities (Xcel, Denver Water); \$33K on food and supplies; and \$12K on vet services. This is the same anticipated spend in 2025 and 2026. The budgeted and actual costs are rolled up into the Patrol division budget allocation and not included as a separate line allocation in the department's budget.

The agency has made a request to the donor of the purchase price for the horses and will provide that information as soon as made available.

DDPHE (*received via email on 10/28*)

25. Alvidrez - Regarding Youth on Record, I understand they receive \$480,000 from a multi-year reimbursable grant, awarded from 2024-2026. Please let me know if DDPHE is still able to fund Youth on Record for 2026, and if so, what amount will be awarded to them? Lastly, I understand funds are tight for all city agencies, yet I must still ask, are there opportunities to shift funding to bolster not only Youth on Record, but after school time programming in general. We ask because keeping youth engaged and out of trouble is one of the best ways to prevent crime and avoid youth from entering the justice system.

- **Answer:** The Youth on Record grant for \$480K is meant to cover three years (2024-2026) with the organization drawing down different amounts each year based on their reimbursements. This is an ARPA grant that must be spent by December 31, 2026.

Regarding opportunities to shift funding, we have worked very hard to meet budget reduction requirements while still maintaining all current programs and services and not reducing levels of service. This has meant making limited cuts to almost all line items. That includes grants to community partners that provide services. The result is a budget that meets our goal of not cutting service levels in 2026. But what that means is at this point shifting funding within our budget toward any expenditure would mean cutting funding for other core public health grants, services, programs, or staffing. We will continue to fund work that supports public health for youth (violence prevention, tobacco prevention, etc.) but do not have any flexible funding sources within our budget that could be shifted without impacting core public health work.

DPR (received via email on 10/28)

26. Regarding Youth on Record, I understand they received \$9,188 from DPR in 2025 for programming at La Alma Rec Center. Please let me know if DPR is still able to fund Youth on Record for 2026, and if so, what amount will be awarded to them? Lastly, I understand funds are tight for all city agencies, yet I must still ask, are there opportunities to shift funding to bolster not only Youth on Record, but after school time programming in general. We ask because keeping youth engaged and out of trouble is one of the best ways to prevent crime and avoid youth from entering the justice system.

- **Answer:** See answer to number 25.

Multi-Agency

27. Alvidrez - Shelter system – Health & Safety of Shelter System

- What is budgeted for deferred maintenance? What maintenance is needed for our shelter system?
 - **Answer:** General Services has been successful in identifying and repairing/replacing many critical building systems (Plumbing, HVAC, Fire & Life Safety systems) in our shelter facilities during the first two years of operations. We will be working with our partners in 2026 to identify and prioritize capital funding needs for the entire shelter system. The following is an overview of the GS Facilities Management Budget for the shelter system:

2025 Supplies and Services Budgets:

- a. AIMH Operations budget \$700,000 with \$150K one-time capital equipment funding (totaling a \$850k AIMH Budget).
- b. Congregate Shelters (Mens, Womens, Crossroads Shelters, Tooley Hall and Fox Center transition housing) \$250k

2025 Supplies and Services YTD actual expenses (Through mid-October):

- c. AIMH- \$ 1,645,278
- d. Congregate-\$172k
- In addition, there is close to \$5 million budgeted in the CIP for long-term capital maintenance at city facilities, and \$11.4 million in proposed Vibrant Denver Bond funding for ADA accessibility and other improvements across the shelter system.

AVD *(Received via email on 10/28/2025)*

28. Alvidrez - Regarding Youth on Record, I understand they received \$10,000 from DAV in 2025. Please let me know if DAV is still able to fund Youth on Record for 2026, and if so, what amount will be awarded to them? Lastly, I understand funds are tight for all city agencies, yet I must still ask, are there opportunities to shift funding to bolster not only Youth on Record, but after school time programming in general. We ask because keeping youth engaged and out of trouble is one of the best ways to prevent crime and avoid youth from entering the justice system.

- Answer: The grant cycle will open in Q3 2026 with applications in August and final determinations in October. Regarding after school programming, for the first time in 2025 we redirected funds for DPS training towards out of school programs in partnership with Denver Parks & Recreation. We are pleased to share that the program will continue in 2026.

Meeting Requests:

29. Hinds – Request for conversation with CAO re: Transportation & Mobility Special Revenue Fund

30. Sawyer - Fund Balance % - page 82, schedule 100

- Need more information regarding Unassigned Fund Balance and Schedule 100
- Meeting was held with Justin/ CM Sawyer on Tuesday.