## Auditor Ordinance Proposal

# **Stakeholder Outreach**

## Changes since last Finance and Governance Meeting

- **Changes since** Expanded the timeline for the subpoena to 30 days after receiving **st Finance and** feedback and Committee discussion.
- **Governance Meeting** Added annual reporting back to City Council on subpoena use at the request of Council.

### Outreach completed

In addition to reaching out to and meeting with members of City Council, we briefed many community groups and organizations on the ordinance proposal and how it would work. We appreciated the feedback we received, which allowed us to clarify information, address persistent misinformation, and strengthen understandings of the process and value of subpoena power.

#### **ORGANIZATIONS REACHED:**

- Colorado Building Trades 2/24/21
- Denver Chamber of Commerce and Colorado Competitive Council - 3/3/21
- Towards Justice 3/8/21
- **SEIU** 3/8/21
- Downtown Denver Partnership 3/8/21
- Restaurant Association 3/15/21
- Unite Here 4/9/21
- Hispanic Chamber of Commerce of Metro Denver 4/12/21
- Jobs with Justice 4/12/21
- Denver Area Labor Federation 4/14/21
- Asian Chamber of Commerce 4/14/21
- Discussion with Audit Committee on Denver8 TV 4/15/21
- Denver Chamber of Commerce, Downtown Denver Partnership, Colorado Competitive Council - 4/15/21
- Denver Museum of Nature and Science and Denver Zoo - 4/20/21
- Colorado Women's Chamber Public Policy Committee (upcoming) – 4/20/21

#### Responses and Action

We appreciated the opportunity to talk to many different groups and gain a better understanding of the perspectives and needs of a wide variety of stakeholders. The impact of our work in the community is of the utmost importance to us.

We were disappointed that none of the members of the Denver Metro Chamber or the Downtown Denver Partnership were willing to meet with us, after the organizations' leaders expressed willingness to continue the discussion last month. We cannot answer questions and put the business community at ease when there is an unwillingness from the start to have the conversation.

As a result of feedback from other organizations, we expanded our outreach even further than initially requested, we added reporting to City Council to encourage transparent use of this power, we also extended the timeline for the process. We also had a public discussion at our broadcast meeting of the independent Audit Committee to not only notify Committee members, but also the public following our work on Denver8 TV.

We also worked to clear up misinformation as much as possible in all of our meetings. Some common misconceptions included the cost burden of the subpoena process — which would be much less for the city, the taxpayers, and the businesses involved than it would be for years-long litigation. There was also misinformation about the lack of comprehensive tools currently at the disposal of the Auditor. We were also able to research and share information about how common this type of power is for other government auditors at the municipal and state levels.

The conversation doesn't end now — or ever. We look forward to continuing to clear up misinformation and ensuring stakeholders have the opportunity to get their questions answered. We also look forward to working collaboratively and transparently with the labor and business communities in the future.

We have also already reached out to INC, the Denver Botanic Gardens, Denver Art Museum, DCPA, NFIB, Colorado Black Chamber of Commerce, and the Hispanic Contractors' of Colorado. Some organizations were unable to get us on the calendars to meet with their membership, but we continue to work with them to share information and hope to meet with any who are interested in the future.

We hope this ordinance is written in a way that encourages collaboration and mutual resolution long before a subpoena ever has to be used. We appreciated all feedback from City Council members and members of other organizations as we refined the ordinance and our outreach. Anyone with further questions is welcome to reach out to our office.