



Denver City Council

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**Finance Committee  
Summary**

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**Wednesday, March 21, 2007**

**1:30 p.m.**

**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Council Conference Room**

**Committee Members: Faatz, Chair; Boigon, Lehmann**

**Committee Members Absent: Brown**

**Other Council Present: Hancock**

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*Agenda:*

- 1) *Undersheriff and Denver CARES supplementals*
- 2) *District Attorney's Office – Gang Task Force: future supplemental*

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**1) Undersheriff and Denver CARES supplementals**

Committee Action

The Committee approved a supplemental from the Contingency Fund for the Undersheriff's budget in the amount of \$149,000 to cover a shortfall in the City's payments for prisoner care. In addition, a supplemental from the Contingency Fund for the Environmental Health Denver CARES budget in the amount of \$107,000 was approved to cover a shortfall in the City's payments to the rehabilitation evaluation services program. These appropriations would finalize the 2006 year-end reconciliation balance with Denver Health.

Committee Discussion

Mel Thompson, Budget & Management, explained the proposed supplementals will cover the 2006 year-end reconciliation balance with Denver Health Medical Center for services related to prisoner patient care and to cover a shortfall in the City's payments to Denver CARES. A new contract administrator position was created for the Undersheriff's department to assist with monitoring the utilization of services required at the jail, but the position has not been filled. The Administration continues to evaluate service rates and has not decided on any particular approach, stated Mr. Thompson. The budget provision for the new position will be reflected in the 2008 budget.

Councilmember Faatz stated that at the Safety Committee meeting earlier today it was reported by the Office of the Independent Monitor that nursing staff from Denver Health are not cooperative when the agency is conducting its investigations. The Councilmember said she is concerned about this behavior and asked if the City should consider modifying its contract with Denver Health. Bill Lovinger, Undersheriff, said they are having discussions with Denver Health and that the problems with them are being handled by the City Attorney's Office. Mr. Thompson added that prisoner care services are addressed in both core and non-core services of the contract. Jodi Mabb, Denver Health, said she was

unaware of the problems and said she will provide feedback to her management regarding the concerns of City Council.

**2) District Attorney's Office – Gang Task Force: supplemental request**

Committee Discussion

Mel Thompson, Budget & Management (BMO), stated a Gang Task Force is being created to confront the growing problem of gang activities. The task force will be staffed by personnel from the District Attorney's Office. The estimated cost is \$425,538 and would include staffing of two senior deputies, one senior investigator, and one legal secretary. Mr. Thompson said the Administration is not requesting a supplemental at this time in order to look at other options, such as private funding, to support goals associated with the task force. Historically, the District Attorney's Office has had a difficult time with vacancy savings (budget savings created by vacant positions), and BMO wants to wait until later this year before proposing a supplemental to see what type of savings can be created through the remainder 2007.

Councilmember Faatz questioned how the privately raised money would be accounted for in the City accounting process. Mr. Thompson reminded the Committee the District Attorney's Office is an independent agency, but has a Special Revenue Fund where the donations would be deposited and have record of, similar to journaling for grants. As far as public disclosure, Mr. Thompson said many issues still need to be worked out and he must have more conversation with the Mayor's Office. The Councilwoman noted it was important that the money and contributors be tracked and available under open records.

Councilmember Boigon said she was uncomfortable with private dollars funding prosecution activities and does not support this option. Councilmember Faatz agreed; adding that it is more appropriate to spend public dollars on prosecution activities. Councilmember Hancock said he agrees with the Councilwomen and that this option can cross serious lines of appropriateness. He stated he would discuss this matter with the Mayor. Councilmember Faatz suggested that funds from the Crime Prevention Commission be considered as a funding source. Lisa Willis, District Attorney's Office, said she understands the Council's concerns about private funding, but they will continue to proceed with the initial objectives of the task force.