

1 Sec. 2-65 Aldermanic Initiative Funds

2 (a) Purpose. The city council finds that the unique history and
3 diversity of the city, as well as its size and geography, makes it
4 appropriate to authorize individual alderpersons to direct the
5 expenditure of public funds for limited and specific public
6 purposes subject to the provisions of this section.

7 (b) Definitions. As used in this section, the following terms are
8 defined as follows:

9 "Capital expenditure" means an expenditure involving the
10 construction, installation, improvement, enhancement, repair,
11 maintenance, or upgrade of public property or right-of-way,
12 signage thereupon, or the acquisition of real property. "Capital
13 expenditure" does not include a lease for real property for use
14 by the city.

15 "Chief of staff" means the chief of staff of the office of
16 the aldermen;

17 "Committee" means the rules, administration, and procedures
18 committee of the city council.

19 "Public purpose" means a purpose approved or authorized by
20 law or ordinance which has as its primary objective the promotion
21 of the public health, safety, morals, security, prosperity,
22 contentment, and general welfare of the city or its residents,
23 whether or not there is an incidental benefit to private interests.

1 "Ward alderperson" means an alderperson elected to represent
2 a ward of the city and not at-large.

3 (c) Creation of Funds.

4 1. Aldermanic capital fund. There is created a fund within
5 the city treasury which shall be known as the aldermanic
6 initiative capital fund ("capital fund"). The city council shall
7 annually appropriate such funds as it deems appropriate for the
8 purpose of capital expenditures not otherwise included in the
9 city's capital improvement plan from the Capital Improvement
10 Fund. The city council further shall annually appropriate such
11 sums as it deems appropriate to the capital fund. The city
12 treasurer shall allocate all funds appropriated annually by the
13 city council equally into separate accounts designated for each
14 of the wards established within the city.

15 2. Aldermanic community enhancement fund. There is created
16 a fund within the city treasury which shall be known as the
17 aldermanic community enhancement fund ("non-capital fund"). The
18 city council shall annually appropriate such funds as it deems
19 appropriate from the Gaming Tax Fund to the aldermanic community
20 enhancement fund. The city treasurer shall allocate all funds
21 appropriated by the city council under this section equally into
22 separate accounts equal to the number of alderpersons elected
23 in the city. Each ward established within the city shall be
24 assigned a non-capital account which a ward alderperson may

1 authorize disbursements from under this section. The remaining
2 non-capital accounts shall be assigned to each alderperson
3 elected at large (to be designated at-large alderperson A, at-
4 large alderperson B, etc.) who may authorize disbursements
5 therefrom. All funds disbursed from any non-capital account
6 shall be disbursed only for the purposes and manner authorized
7 by this section. The city council may provide additional funds
8 for deposit into the accounts of alderpersons elected at-large
9 for the sole purpose of paying costs associated with citywide
10 constituent communications.

11 (d) Use of funds.

12 1. Capital funds. A ward alderperson may authorize the
13 expenditure of aldermanic initiative capital funds allocated
14 for use in such alderperson's ward for capital expenditures
15 having a public purpose within the ward to pay the costs of
16 contracts let by the city pursuant to law and ordinance or to
17 reimburse a city department expending time, labor, services or
18 equipment related to a capital expenditure made at the ward
19 alderperson's request.

20 2. Non-capital. An alderperson may authorize the
21 expenditure of aldermanic community enhancement funds allocated
22 under paragraph (c)(2) for non-capital expenditures having a
23 public purpose, which shall include the following:

1 i. Contributions or grants to governmental or not-for-
2 profit organizations specifically performing services for the
3 public benefit of the city or its residents;

4 ii. Grants for neighborhood or community beautification,
5 or for scholarships pursuant to a program specifically
6 authorized by the committee which sets forth the criteria for
7 such award;

8 iii. Programing activities, including community
9 meetings, shredding, recycling, or neighborhood clean-up days,
10 cultural or educational events, excluding honoraria, speaking
11 fees, lodging, travel, or entertainment expenses in an
12 aggregate amount exceeding three-thousand (\$3,000) dollars
13 for any individual program;

14 iv. Constituent communications;

15 v. Printing, mailing, or promotional expenses related
16 to the preceding items; or

17 vi. Any other purpose authorized by the committee
18 pursuant to subparagraph ~~three (3)-(4)~~ and not otherwise
19 prohibited by ordinance.

20 3. Expenditures requiring approval by the committee. An
21 alderperson shall obtain the approval of the committee prior to
22 authorizing an expenditure of non-capital funds for purposes
23 other than ~~(i)~~those specially enumerated in paragraph 2 of this
24 section and are which are not otherwise prohibited by law or

1 ~~ordinance. or (ii) for honoraria, speaking fees, lodging, travel,~~
2 ~~or entertainment expenses in an aggregate amount exceeding~~
3 ~~three thousand (\$3,000) dollars for any individual program or~~
4 ~~activity authorized by paragraph 2 of this section~~An alderperson
5 wishing to make an expenditure pursuant to this paragraph may
6 ~~direct , by submitting~~ a written request to the chairperson of
7 the committee (or the vice chairperson of the committee if the
8 chairperson is the requesting alderperson) describing the
9 proposed expenditure not less than sixty (60) days prior to the
10 date funds are needed for such purpose. The committee shall
11 review the matter at its next meeting. The committee chairperson
12 or vice chairperson, as the case may be, in his or her discretion,
13 may permit the consideration of a request within sixty (60) days
14 of the date funds are required if the request can be accommodated
15 without unduly burdening the staff of any city department or
16 the office of the aldermen.

17 4. Prohibited Expenditures. An alderperson may not
18 authorize, and no city department or staff member shall take
19 action to process, the expenditure of funds set forth in this
20 section:

21 i. In any amount in excess of the funds currently
22 available for use by the alderperson;

1 ii. For political contributions, as defined by Article
2 9 of the Election Code, or expenditures made in violation of
3 the Election Code or the Ethics Ordinance;

4 iii. ~~Reserved; For scholarships, except that a~~
5 ~~contribution to a governmental or not-for-profit organization~~
6 ~~or a school district that awards scholarships which are~~
7 ~~available exclusively to all city residents is not prohibited;~~

8 iv. For professional or consultative services, except
9 when required as part of an authorized public improvement
10 project;

11 v. For billboards, posters, or other permanent or
12 semi-permanent signs or advertisement featuring the name,
13 title, or likeness of the alderperson, except that when making
14 an expenditure under paragraph (c) in support of a specific
15 project or event, an alderperson may allow his or her name,
16 title, or likeness accompanied by a depiction of the city
17 seal, logo, or wordmark to be used in advertising or
18 promotional materials associated with the specific project or
19 event without violating this section or any other section of
20 this code;

21 vi. For payments to a family member of the alderperson,
22 as defined by sec. 15-130 of this code or to any entity owned
23 by or in which the alderperson or a family member of the
24 alderperson has a direct or indirect financial interests in

1 such alderperson's name or the name of any other person or
2 entity;

3 vii. For membership or club dues charged by
4 organizations, clubs, or facilities that are primarily
5 engaged in providing health, exercise, or recreational
6 services;

7 viii. For non-capital expenditures in excess of one-third
8 (1/3) of an alderperson's annual budget of non-capital funds
9 authorized in that portion of a calendar year prior to the
10 end of an alderperson's present term of office or in support
11 of a program, activity, or event which occurs after the
12 conclusion of an alderperson's present term of office unless
13 the alderperson is an unopposed candidate for re-election; or

14 ix. For any other expenditure not having a primarily
15 public purpose or that is prohibited by law or ordinance.

16 (e) Procedures.

17 1. Authorization. The chief of staff shall prepare forms
18 for use by the alderpersons in authorizing disbursements for
19 capital and non-capital purposes under this section.

20 i. Capital disbursements. When authorizing a
21 disbursement for capital purposes under this section, a ward
22 alderperson shall consult with the director of public works
23 in identifying capital projects within the alderperson's ward
24 to which the alderperson seeks to fund all or in part with

1 capital funds. Upon the ward alderperson's written
2 authorization identifying a specific project and the amount
3 of funds to be used for such project, such funds shall be
4 deemed encumbered and made available for use by the public
5 works department for the purpose so specified. The chief of
6 staff shall promptly provide the finance department with a
7 copy of the alderperson's authorization.

8 ii. Non-capital disbursements. When authorizing a
9 disbursement for non-capital purposes under this section, an
10 alderperson shall submit a written authorization for the
11 disbursement to the chief of staff that (1) describes the
12 purpose and nature of the proposed disbursement, (2) provides
13 the dates and times for the proposed event or disbursement,
14 (3) identifies any entity to whom funds are to be disbursed,
15 and (4) includes copies of any proposed contracts or other
16 agreements related to the expenditure in a format specified
17 by the corporation counsel. In the case of a proposed
18 disbursement requiring committee approval, the alderperson
19 shall also submit a copy of the written authorization to the
20 chairperson of the committee (or the vice chairperson of the
21 committee if the chairperson is the requesting alderperson)
22 with a request that the committee place the matter on its
23 agenda for consideration.

1 2. Authorization not binding on the city. An alderperson's
2 authorization of the disbursement of capital or non-capital
3 funds shall not be construed as an agreement by the city to
4 expend funds for any purpose nor shall any alderperson represent
5 to any entity that it may rely on such authorization for any
6 purpose.

7 3. Processing of non-capital disbursements. Upon the
8 receipt of a completed authorization for non-capital
9 disbursement, the chief of staff shall promptly take such
10 actions necessary to affect the non-capital disbursement as
11 directed by the alderperson. Such actions shall include but are
12 not limited to submitting check requests to the finance
13 department, requesting the corporation counsel review any
14 proposed contract agreements, and requesting such certificates
15 of insurance as may be required. Following review by the
16 corporation counsel, the chief of staff shall submit a
17 requisition as well as any contracts or purchase agreements
18 related to the disbursement to the director of purchasing for
19 execution on behalf of the city. An agreement executed under
20 this section may include language allocating or sharing
21 liability for an injury resulting from the city's use of any
22 function, service, property or act of another public entity for
23 a purpose authorized by this section without further action by
24 or authorization of the city council in the manner contemplated

1 by the Local Governmental and Governmental Employees Tort
2 Immunity Act.

3 4. Expedited requests. Neither the chief of staff nor any
4 employee of the city shall act on a request for disbursement of
5 non-capital funds submitted by an alderperson fewer than
6 fourteen (14) days prior to the date the funds are needed unless
7 the expedited disbursement is approved in writing by the
8 chairperson of the committee (or the vice chairperson if the
9 requesting alderperson) and the request can be reasonably
10 accommodated in accordance with established city policies and
11 procedures. Upon approval by the chairperson of the committee
12 (or the vice chairperson of the committee if the chairperson is
13 the requesting alderperson), a copy of such written
14 authorization shall be sent by the chief of staff to the
15 chairperson of the finance committee (or to the vice chairperson
16 of the finance committee if the chairperson of the finance
17 committee is the requesting alderperson).

18 5. Applicability of purchasing system. All purchases of
19 goods, services, supplies, or equipment pursuant to
20 disbursements authorized under this section shall be subject to
21 the provisions of division 2-V-2 of this code, and where
22 applicable, the Prevailing Wage Act. Except as limited in this
23 section, the chief of staff shall have the authority of a

1 department head with respect to implementing purchases
2 authorized by an alderperson for non-capital purposes.

3 6. Carry-over of excess funds. Whenever it appears to an
4 alderperson that excess funds will remain unspent in any account
5 from which the alderperson may authorize disbursements, the
6 alderperson, may, in the manner determined by the finance
7 committee, request the carry-over of such funds for a specific
8 purpose authorized by this section for use in the next fiscal
9 year.

10 7. Encumbrance of capital funds for multi-year projects.
11 Whenever a ward alderperson, with the concurrence of the
12 director of public works, deems it to be in the best interest
13 of the alderperson's ward that funding for a specific capital
14 expenditure be allocated beyond the present fiscal year, the
15 alderperson shall notify the city treasurer that funds for such
16 purpose should be encumbered and made available for use by the
17 public works department for the purpose so specified in
18 subsequent fiscal years. If the alderperson or the alderperson's
19 successor determines in a subsequent fiscal year that the
20 proposed capital expenditure is no longer viable, the
21 alderperson may authorize the disbursement of the encumbered
22 funds for any other capital purpose.

23 8. Budget transfers. A ward alderperson may request the
24 transfer of non-capital funds to the alderperson's capital

1 account by submitting a budget transfer request to the city
2 treasurer. A ward alderperson may request the transfer of
3 capital funds to the alderperson's non-capital account by
4 submitting a budget transfer request to the finance committee
5 for its approval.

6 9. Funds budgeted in fiscal year 2023. All funds budgeted
7 for the use of ward alderpersons for capital or non-capital
8 purposes in 2023 which remain unspent as of December 31, 2023,
9 shall be subject to the provisions of this ordinance. The city
10 treasurer shall transfer previously budgeted funds available to
11 each ward alderperson to their respective capital and non-
12 capital accounts, in accordance with an office of the aldermen
13 office policy dated June 12, 2015 (allocating 2/3 of such funds
14 to capital and 1/3 of such funds for non-capital purposes). All
15 funds appropriated in fiscal year 2023 for the use of
16 alderpersons elected at-large collectively shall be evenly
17 divided among the alderpersons elected at-large and may be used
18 by such alderpersons for the non-capital purposes authorized by
19 this section.

20 10. Funds reappropriated or budgeted from years prior to
21 2023.

22 ~~i.~~ Any funds appropriated or budgeted for the use of
23 ward alderpersons for capital improvement purposes prior to
24 2023 which remain unspent shall remain available for the use

1 of the respective ward alderpersons in the manner provided
2 for the use of capital funds in this section.~~until December~~
3 ~~31, 2025.~~

4 ~~ii.i. Any such funds that an alderperson has not~~
5 ~~requested be encumbered or disbursed and which the city~~
6 ~~council has continued to make available for capital~~
7 ~~improvements within the respective wards as part of the 2026~~
8 ~~city budget, shall be transferred to the capital improvement~~
9 ~~fund of the city. The public works director may thereafter~~
10 ~~use such funds for capital improvement projects within the~~
11 ~~respective ward.~~