

A RESOLUTION EXPRESSING THE CONTINUING SUPPORT OF THE BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSTON CITY COUNCIL FOR THE PROVISION OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2014 BUDGET ORDINANCE (ORDINANCE NO. 2013-617) REQUIRING EXCESS REVENUES RECEIVED BY THE CITY TO BE DEPOSITED INTO THE FUND BALANCE AND NOT APPROPRIATED FOR CURRENT FISCAL YEAR PURPOSES; EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE COMMITTEE THAT THE HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT SHOULD REDUCE ITS OVERTIME LIABILITY BY DECREASING THE AMOUNT OF OVERTIME AUTHORIZED PRIOR TO THE END OF FY2014 OR OTHER MEANS SO THAT THE DEPARTMENT DOES NOT HAVE A BUDGET OVERRUN AT THE END OF THE FISCAL YEAR.

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WHEREAS, the Houston Fire Department (“HFD”) has to date incurred overtime expenses including pension and FICA of approximately \$26,365,226; and

WHEREAS, at the current rate of overtime, it will incur an estimated additional \$11,239,773 of overtime expense by the end of the current fiscal year, causing the City to exceed the overtime current budget by \$ 8,217,684; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ordinance No. 2013-617, which approved the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget (the “Budget Ordinance”), all General Fund Revenues and resources received in FY2014 in excess of the Budget are to be designated to the Fund Balance and not appropriated for FY2014 expenditures; and

WHEREAS, the Budget and Fiscal Affairs Committee of the City Council (the “Committee”) continues to support the foregoing provision of the Budget Ordinance; and

WHEREAS, the Committee does not support the transfer of money from the Fund Balance to cover the HFD overtime budget overrun; and

WHEREAS, the Committee desires to convey to HFD the sense of the Committee that HFD must find within its current budget, including but not limited to, by reducing overtime to be authorized before the end of the Fiscal Year, sufficient funds to address its overtime budget overrun; **NOW, THEREFORE**,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE BUDGET AND FISCAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS:

Section 1. That the recitals contained in the preamble of this Resolution are declared to be true and correct and are hereby approved and adopted.

Section 2. That Committee continues to support the provisions of the Budget Ordinance that all funds received by the City in excess of the authorized Budget are to be deposited into the Fund Balance and not appropriated for current FY2014 purposes related to regular departmental operations.

Section 3. That the Committee does not support amendment of the FY2014 Budget to permit the transfer of funds from the General Fund Balance to offset the HFD overtime budget overrun.

Section 4. That it is the sense of this Committee that HFD must find sufficient funds within its current FY2014 budget to offset any overtime budget overrun, including, but not limited to, by the reduction of additional overtime authorized before the end of the Fiscal Year.

Section 5. This Resolution shall take effect immediately upon its passage and approval by the Budget and Finance Committee.

PASSED AND APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2014.

(Prepared by Legal Department _____)
(DFM:dfm February 18, 2014) First Assistant City Attorney
(L.D. File No. _____)