



CITY OF MILWAUKEE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Mayor's initial ARPA spending plan to go before Finance and Personnel Committee in September

The Finance and Personnel Committee will take up Mayor Barrett's initial spending plans, along with other proposals submitted by Council members, for part of the city's \$394 million federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding allocation **during a special meeting the first week of September.**

Called the "Summer Jobs for Youth & Stronger Summer Package," the Mayor's first (more than \$90 million) plan was made public on Tuesday, July 13.

Alderman Michael J. Murphy, chair of the Finance and Personnel Committee, said the proposals will require more review than the Mayor's original plan to have the first spending proposals come before the committee on July 21, with expected passage at the July 27 Common Council meeting.

"I look forward to reviewing the proposals carefully and meticulously, as do other Council members. Giving us five working days prior to the committee meeting to digest these proposals is not adequate or fiscally wise," Alderman Murphy said.

"We (committee members) will be doing our due diligence throughout August to weigh each item carefully and constructively, not only to ensure the ARPA funds are used to help us recover from the damage done by the pandemic, but also to make improvements that are long overdue to help strengthen the city and to help our constituents," the alderman said.

Common Council President Cavalier Johnson said he will continue pushing for an ARPA spending process that is fair and includes built-in accountability.

"Just as we have a defined process for deliberating the city budget each fall, I believe it is essential that we also have a standard process when deliberating the allocation of ARPA funds," President Johnson said.

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ARPA spending/ADD ONE

Alderman Murphy noted that the Mayor's request was for \$93 million and has “deep complexities and ramifications” that Council members will want to review and discuss. “It makes sense that the Council will need some time to review the initial spending plan to fully understand the goals and objectives of this proposal,” he said. “It is best that we have the delay to allow for a fully public and transparent process that is clear and understandable for Council members and for the public at large.”

Alderman Murphy noted the Council has already approved ARPA funding for the Mayor’s Earn & Learn program (\$3.8 million), and that some of the federal CARES Act funds allocated to the city last year have not yet been spent. “We approved the Earn and Learn allocation because there is an urgency for us to provide working opportunities to underserved young people across the city – we acted prudently and responsibly in doing that,” he said.

The September special Finance and Personnel Committee meeting will be televised live on the City Channel (channel 25 on Spectrum Cable and channel 99 on AT&T U-Verse in the City of Milwaukee) and via streaming video on the city website at city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25. The public will again be notified once a date has been set.