



# Finance Committee

*City of Arts & Innovation*

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**TO: FINANCE COMMITTEE MEMBERS** **DATE: JULY 8, 2015**  
**FROM: FINANCE DEPARTMENT** **WARDS: ALL**  
**SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT OF “ASK FINANCE” POSTINGS AND SOLICITATION OF ADDITIONAL INQUIRIES FROM THE PUBLIC**

## **ISSUE:**

The issue for Finance Committee consideration is a review of the quarterly report of postings made to the “Ask Finance” section of the Finance Department’s website for the second quarter of calendar year 2015.

## **RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Finance Committee review the quarterly report of postings made to the “Ask Finance” section of the Finance Department’s website, receive any additional inquiries from the public, and provide feedback to staff regarding the effectiveness of this method of communication.

## **BACKGROUND:**

At the June 18, 2014 Finance Committee (Committee) meeting, the Committee directed the Finance Department to return to the Committee quarterly with a recurring agenda item to hear citizen requests for financial information and to create an online page through which financial information can be disseminated to the public in a formalized structure. Immediately following that meeting, staff fast tracked development of the online portal and it was unveiled to the Committee at their July 29, 2014 (Special Meeting).

Since July 29, 2014 the Finance Department has received and responded to numerous questions received through the online portal or as follow-ups to other postings. The postings from the most recent quarter are attached for the Committee’s review. Based upon usage of the portal thus far by the public, it appears to be a useful vehicle through which to request information that would not be available through a traditional public records request. Finance Department staff has made every effort to respond to each inquiry within a week so as to minimize the delay for citizens to have their questions answered.

As was discussed with the Committee at the June 18, 2014 meeting, rather than attempt to respond to questions at the time that they are asked, staff will collect any new verbal questions received from the public at the Finance Committee meeting to be answered via the “Ask Finance” page in the near future. Staff also anticipates receiving additional verbal follow-up questions from the public regarding previous postings. Staff should have all information in hand to answer these follow-up questions, as all related research has already been completed.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no fiscal impact associated with this report.

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Approved as to form: Gary G. Geuss, City Attorney

Attachment: "Ask Finance" Postings for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter