



GOVERNANCE AND PRIORITIES COMMITTEE

Advisory Committee Discretionary Funding – Governance Options

RECOMMENDATION

1. To implement Option 3 (Spending Thresholds Within Approved Budget and Mandate), whereby Advisory Committees retain authority to approve expenditures of \$2,000 or less that are clearly within their Council approved mandate. Where expenditures exceed the established threshold, require a re-allocation of budget funds, fall outside or are not clearly within a committee's mandate, relate to or overlap with existing administrative budgets, contracts, or grant programs, or are otherwise unclear in purpose or appropriateness they shall be referred to the appropriate Standing Policy Committee for review and approval;
2. That an enhanced budget process where Advisory Committees submit budget breakdowns aligned with their work plans for information at budget time be adopted;
3. That Administration develop standardized parameters, thresholds, and referral criteria to support consistent application across all Advisory Committees;
4. That these changes take effect immediately; and
5. That the City Solicitor be instructed to bring required resulting changes to Advisory Committee Terms of References and Standing Policy Committee Delegated Authorities under The Procedures and Committees Bylaw.

History

The Governance and Priorities Committee, at its meeting held on March 11, 2026, considered a report of the City Clerk's Office regarding the above.

Your Committee also resolved that Administration be directed to:

1. Conduct a review of the mandates of City Council Advisory Committees and report back to Council, with consideration given to:
 - the original intent and purpose of each Advisory Committee at the time of its establishment;
 - the current relevance, clarity, and alignment of each mandate with Council's strategic priorities; and



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- opportunities for improvement, refinement, or clarification where identified;
2. As part of this review, engage directly with each City Council Advisory Committee to obtain feedback on:
 - the effectiveness and clarity of its current mandate;
 - how the mandate supports the Committee's ability to provide meaningful policy advice to Council; and
 - any challenges, gaps, or opportunities the Committee has identified in fulfilling its role;
 3. Examine the role of co-sponsorship and provide recommendations on co-sponsorship and funding intake and processes, including any proposed changes to improve clarity, consistency, accountability, and alignment with Advisory Committee mandates.

Attachment

March 11, 2026 report of the City Clerk's Office;
Advisory Committee Mandates; and
Full Advisory Committee Expenditures, 2023 - 2025