

# Consolidation Proposals

Office of the City Attorney - Budget Request 2010-2011

## Collections

The City Controller identified a number of recommendations in a 2007 report to the Mayor, City Council and City Attorney concerning the potential for consolidation of collections activity. We are presently undertaking an effort to provide increased resources and to emphasize collection activity in our Economic Development Section. Early results have been very promising and collections are being made with a greater degree of success than in previous years.

It is apparent that earlier referral of delinquencies to this Office could have a bearing on the eventual success of collection activity involving attorney resources. In the present arrangement, the delinquencies first proceed through a screening and collection attempt process in the Office of Finance that can be rather extensive and take years to complete, before cases are ultimately referred to the City Attorney.

Often, by this time, the referrals are close to the statute of limitations for the collection of the debts. For this reason and others, we believe that a greater degree of consolidation in this area should take place. Such consolidation should be within this Office.

## Worker's Compensation Case Management

At the invitation of the newly-elected City Attorney, new City Controller Wendy Gruel recently began a performance audit of the workers' compensation division of the City Attorney's Office. This audit promises to offer many opportunities to improve the City's overall workers' compensation program, as well as improving efficiency between the Personnel Department, the City Attorney's Office and the Third Party Administrator.

While the audit will not be completed for some time, it is clear that the fragmentation of the program has created a system that does not maximize service delivery for applicants and is not operating with the greatest levels of efficiency. We fully expect that the audit will yield many recommendations that will benefit the City and provide for significant savings to the General Fund.

The City Attorney's Office would look positively on proposals to consolidate more workers' compensation case handling responsibilities within this Office.