

Date: 6/2/16
Submitted in Rules Committee
Council File No: 16-0093
Item No.: 1 *Communication from the OPA*
Deputy _____

DWP GOVERNANCE REFORM: Strengthening the OPA Presentation



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June 3, 2016

Strengthening the OPA

- Committee instructions
 - Options for strengthening the Office of Public Accountability / Ratepayer Advocate (OPA), outlined in the April 5, 2016 report
 - OPA to provide options for making the Office more effective and efficient
 - Analysis of option for instituting an ex-officio role for the Ratepayer Advocate (RPA, Executive Director of the OPA)

Summary: Strengthening the OPA

- Access to information
 - History of challenges in receiving timely information, but much more responsive with current DWP General Manager.
 - Administrative Code Modifications
 - Clarify Charter OPA information access language specifically to include “books and records” access
 - CLA and CAO have a concern with this approach
 - Get DWP Board and GM input on information access clarification
- Office resources and hiring
 - OPA is authorized for 7 positions, but has filled only 4, limited by minimum budget and authority to fill vacancies with exempt positions
 - Administrative Code Modifications
 - Increase OPA minimum budget from 0.025% to 0.050% of DWP gross revenues via change to Administrative Code Section 23.144(d)(5) or via change to Charter Section 683. No impact on General Fund.
 - Flexible staffing plan
 - Instruct CAO to assist OPA in flexible staffing plan and a request for exempt positions

Summary (con't.)

- Adoption of a reappointment process for RPA
 - Charter and Administrative Code is silent on number terms for RPA and do not provide a process for reappointment
 - Instruct the CAO and CLA to work with City Attorney to determine best method for reappointment and to draft an ordinance establishing the necessary procedures
- Ex-Officio Role for RPA
 - Add a seat to the DWP Board for RPA in an Ex-Officio role
 - Offices do not recommend because of RPA's role as advisor to Board, but agree the only potential benefit is increased access to information
 - If Council wishes to pursue this option, a Charter amendment is likely avenue

DWP Governance Reform Information

Information available at following websites:

<http://dwpreform.lacity.org/>

<http://www.7thdistrict.net/dwpreform>

<http://cao.lacity.org/DWP/index.htm>