



Aldermanic Request: Alderman Waguespack Funds in the City Reserve

March 10, 2025

Funds in the City Reserve

Under Municipal Code Chapter 2-53 for the City of Chicago, the Council Office of Financial Analysis (COFA) is required to conduct financial analyses or respond to inquiries upon the request of a member of the City Council.

On March 10, 2025, Alderman Waguespack of the 32nd Ward submitted the following request to COFA:

Can [COFA] assist me if you could help me nail down the total amount of funds we have in city reserves (the latest discernable amount) separate from any reserves in our pension funds.

This COFA report is in response to Alderman Waguespack request, in addition to the request COFA provides a brief background.

City of Chicago Reserves

The City of Chicago Reserves account is also known as Chicago's rainy-day fund, also known as the Budget Stabilization fund. This is a reserve account that is used to address economic challenges or unexpected revenue shortfalls to ensure the continuity of government operations. Fund Stabilization, Operating Liquidity Fund, Budget Stabilization Funds and Rainy-Day Fund are all terms used to describe the Reserve.

The Department of Finance (DOF) has oversight for the Reserve Fund. According to the DOF, the fund has had a \$50MM balance since 2021 and can be found in Exhibit 3 Governmental Funds Balance Sheet lodged in the amount for the General Fund's Assigned Fund Balance (p. 36 of the FY23 report: \$773.5MM). (MS. Salao. Email correspondence. March 6, 2025).

The FY23 ACFR report is the most current audited report. The \$50MM is the amount dedicated to non-pension reserves.





Exhibit 3
CITY OF CHICAGO, ILLINOIS
BALANCE SHEET
GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS
December 31, 2023
 (Amounts are in Thousands of Dollars)

	General	Federal, State and Local Grants	Special Taxing Areas
ASSETS			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	\$ 735,500	\$ —	\$ 651,205
Investments	778,238	503,553	1,623,690
Receivables (Net of Allowances):			
Property Tax	—	—	1,191,110
Accounts	507,327	4,207	8,790
Due From Other Funds	394,566	301,691	792,775
Due From Other Governments	165,514	1,076,295	—
Inventories	54,851	—	—
Lease Receivable	49,923	—	—
Restricted Cash and Cash Equivalents	—	3,218	—
Restricted Investments	—	—	—
Restricted Cash and Investments with Escrow Agent	129	—	—
Other Assets	2,226	3,267	—
Total Assets	\$ 2,688,274	\$ 1,892,231	\$ 4,267,570
LIABILITIES, DEFERRED INFLOWS, AND FUND BALANCE			
Liabilities:			
Voucher Warrants Payable	\$ 638,474	\$ 404,447	\$ 147,598
Bonds, Notes and Other Obligations Payable - Current	—	—	—
Accrued Interest	—	—	—
Due To Other Funds	556,540	563,654	17,377
Accrued and Other Liabilities	325,025	6,439	4,815
Claims Payable	62,895	—	—
Unearned Revenue	1,223	907,292	—
Total Liabilities	1,584,157	1,881,832	169,790
Deferred Inflows	49,247	892,501	1,074,343
Fund Balance:			
Nonspendable	54,851	—	—
Restricted	—	9,447	3,023,437
Committed	—	—	—
Assigned	773,452	—	—
Unassigned	226,567	(891,549)	—
Total Fund Balance	1,054,870	(882,102)	3,023,437
Total Liabilities, Deferred Inflows and Fund Balance	\$ 2,688,274	\$ 1,892,231	\$ 4,267,570

See notes to basic financial statements.