



The City of Buffalo Common Council

1413 City Hall
Buffalo, NY 14202

Meeting: 09/19/23 02:00 PM
Department: Common Council
Category: Resolution
Prepared By: Jim Montour

Initiator: Jim Montour

Sponsors: Fillmore District Council Member Nowakowski, Majority Leader, Niagara Dist. Council Member Rivera

SCHEDULED
AGENDA ITEM 23-1589

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Nowakowski - Audit of City Employees on Paid Administrative Leave

WHEREAS, The Investigative Post article, titled "City Hall Clerk Paid not to Work," brought to light a case of a City of Buffalo employee who was placed on paid administrative leave for approximately seven and a half years while still receiving compensation from the City of Buffalo, resulting in a cost of over \$600,000 to City taxpayers;

Whereas, placing employees on extended periods of paid administrative leave, during which they do not perform any public duties for the City of Buffalo, and without an ongoing effort to reach a final resolution, constitutes a matter of negligence that has the potential to erode public trust in city government;

Whereas, the severe delay in addressing the issue and allowing an employee to remain on paid administrative leave for an inordinate period of time is a breach of the city's duty to efficiently and responsibly manage taxpayer funds;

Whereas, it is imperative that the City of Buffalo reviews all cases of employees on paid administrative leave to ensure that similar situations have not, or currently occurring with other employees, and to rectify any such situations promptly with due diligence; and

Whereas, the Buffalo Common Council believes in transparency, accountability, and responsible governance, and is committed to safeguarding taxpayer dollars;

Now, therefore, let it be resolved that the City of Buffalo Common Council hereby:

Requests the City Comptroller to conduct an audit of all city employees currently on paid administrative leave, with a specific focus on cases of extended leave and report findings to the Buffalo Common Council;

Requests that this audit shall include, but not be limited to, an examination of the duration of their leave, the reasons for being on leave, and the actions taken by relevant city entities to address these issues;

Established a deadline for the City Comptroller to file a report of the findings of this audit to the Buffalo Common Council for the Council Meeting November 14th;

Commits to taking appropriate actions based on the audit findings to ensure transparency, accountability, and the responsible use of taxpayer funds in cases of paid administrative leave;

Requests that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the City Comptroller, the Mayor's Office, the City's Human Resources Department, and relevant city unions for their information and cooperation in this audit.