

ORDINANCE

CITY OF NEW ORLEANS

CITY HALL: MAY 28, 2025

CALENDAR NO. 35,127

NO: _____ MAYOR COUNCIL SERIES

BY: COUNCILMEMBERS MORRELL, MORENO, GIARRUSSO, AND KING

AN ORDINANCE to require the criminal justice agencies to use the City's current enterprise resource planning system (BRASS) or similar contracting and procurement database approved by the City Council to delineate how City funds are allocated within their respective agencies; and otherwise to provide with respect thereto.

WHEREAS, pursuant to section 3-115 of the Home Rule Charter, the City Council is responsible for adopting the City's annual operating budget and authorized to increase, decrease, add, or subtract any budget appropriations within certain legal constraints; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Charter section 6-102, any entity which expends City funds or seeks an operating budget appropriation, including, among others, the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, and the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Orleans Parish Communications District, Orleans Parish Coroner, Orleans Parish District Attorney, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Orleans Parish Sheriff, and Orleans Parish Public Defender ("Criminal Justice Agencies"), must submit detailed data for inclusion in the Mayor's proposed budget; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate the review of the requested operating budget appropriations, the City Council conducts public hearings at which all City departments and agencies which receive funding from the City, including the Criminal Justice Agencies, appear to discuss their proposed budgets; and

WHEREAS, over the last eight years, the Council has increased appropriations to the Sheriff to ensure that the parish jail, the Orleans Justice Center, is fully staffed and complies with state and federal regulations and court orders concerning the operations of the Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, the Sheriff has full control and responsibility over the Justice Center and those incarcerated therein; and

WHEREAS, ten inmates escaped from the Justice Center on Friday, May 16, 2025, resulting in a multi-agency manhunt for the escapees; and

WHEREAS, at a joint meeting of the Council's Criminal Justice Committee and the Committee of the Whole on May 20, 2025, convened to discuss escape, several issues were raised concerning the lack of transparency and accountability regarding the funding that the Council budgets to the Sheriff's office; and

WHEREAS, during the joint meeting, representatives from the Sheriff's office were unable to provide satisfactory answers and detailed information related to its funding and contracting while also asking for additional appropriations for personnel and "improvements" to the Justice Center; and

WHEREAS, the Council anticipates that ongoing additional expenses will be incurred by the Criminal Justice Agencies to respond to the current crisis and to harden the system against future security breaches; and

WHEREAS, the City faces dire budgetary issues and the Council strives to reduce spending and allocate funds where necessary; and

WHEREAS, if the Council is to maintain a balanced budget, any additional funding of Criminal Justice Agencies requires proportional spending cuts to other City programs and services; and

WHEREAS, it is in the public's interest that the Council receive full transparency from the Criminal Justice Agencies on their expenditures and encumbrances of city money; **NOW THEREFORE**

SECTION 1. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS HEREBY

ORDAINS, That, with regards to City-appropriated funds used in-whole or in-part, each of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, and the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Orleans Parish Communications District, Orleans Parish Coroner, Orleans Parish District Attorney, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Orleans Parish Sheriff, and Orleans Parish Public Defender shall establish and implement the City's current enterprise resource planning system (BRASS) or similar contracting and procurement database approved by the City Council (the "System") to provide the City Council full, itemized accounting of its respective personnel costs, operating costs, and contract obligations

SECTION 2. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS FURTHER

ORDAINS, That each of the Municipal and Traffic Court of New Orleans, and the Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, Orleans Parish Communications District, Orleans Parish Coroner, Orleans Parish District Attorney, Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, Orleans Parish Sheriff, and Orleans Parish Public Defender (i) shall make a good faith effort to implement the System, working with City personnel as needed; (ii) shall submit to the Clerk of Council and Council Fiscal Office on the 15th day of each month for the prior month's activity a report regarding the status of the implementation of the System and a fiscal report itemizing by line all expenditures or encumbrances of City funds with detail of its allocation of City funds, including, but not limited to, purchase orders, invoices, receipts, and contract documents; and (iii) shall brief the Council's Criminal Justice Committee on

11 the submitted reports during each of its quarterly meetings held pursuant to Section 2-61 of the
12 City Code.

1 **SECTION 3. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS FURTHER**
2 **ORDAINS**, That each of the Orleans Parish Sheriff, Orleans Parish District Attorney, and Orleans
3 Parish Criminal District Court shall comply with Section 1 within one year of the date of adoption
4 of this ordinance and shall comply with Section 2 within 90 days of the date of adoption of this
5 ordinance.

1 **SECTION 4. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS FURTHER**
2 **ORDAINS**, That the Clerk of Orleans Parish Criminal District Court, the Municipal and Traffic
3 Court of New Orleans, the Orleans Parish Communications District, the Orleans Parish Coroner,
4 the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court, and the Orleans Public Defender shall comply with Section 1
5 within two years of the date of adoption of this ordinance, and shall comply with Section 2
6 beginning one year from the date of adoption of this ordinance.

1 **SECTION 5. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS FURTHER**
2 **ORDAINS**, That the Council will appropriate funds as necessary to carry out the provisions of
3 this ordinance.

1 **SECTION 6. THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS FURTHER**
2 **ORDAINS**, That the Clerk of Council shall provide a certified copy of this ordinance via U.S.
3 Mail, and the Council's Fiscal Office shall also provide an electronic copy of this ordinance, to
4 each of the Criminal Justice Agencies listed herein.

ADOPTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW ORLEANS _____

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

DELIVERED TO THE MAYOR ON _____

APPROVED:
DISAPPROVED: _____

MAYOR

RETURNED BY THE MAYOR ON _____ **AT** _____

ASSISTANT CLERK OF COUNCIL

ROLL CALL VOTE:
YEAS:
NAYS:
ABSENT:
RECUSED: