

Sec. 6B-1. Finance and Audit Review Commission

**(a) Powers and Duties.** There shall be a Finance and Audit Review Commission, which shall have authority to examine into all matters relating to the financial and budgetary efficiency, efficacy and conditions of the City. Notwithstanding the provisions of this Charter pertaining to the executive powers of the Mayor, the Department of Audit shall be under the direct supervision of the Finance and Audit Review Commission.

**(1) Financial Review.** Said Commission is authorized to audit and examine or cause to be audited and examined, the books and accounts of any and all of the departments and officials of the City, including the Department of Education.

**(2) Administrative Policy Review.** Said Commission shall review the contents of the annual audit and make recommendations to the Mayor regarding the manner and means of improving the administrative processes pertaining to the operations of the City.

**(3) Supervision of the Department of Audit.** Said Commission shall be responsible for the general supervision of the Department of Audit and shall give due consideration to the requests from the Mayor or the Board of Aldermen in establishing and modifying the work plan of the Commission or its staff.

**(4) Required Cooperation.** Each officer and employee of any department, institution, board, commission or agency of the City shall assist said Commission and Department of Audit in carrying out the provisions of this section.

**(b) Membership.** Said Commission shall consist of seven (7) electors of the City appointed by the Mayor, subject to the advice and consent of a majority of the members of the Board of Aldermen. The Commission shall choose a chair and such other officers as it may desire. Commencing on January 1, 2003, the Mayor shall appoint four (4) members for a term of four (4) years and three (3) members for a term of two (2) years. Following the term of two (2) years the Mayor shall, on or after January 1, 2005, appoint three (3) members for a term of four (4) years.

**(1) Qualifications.** The members of the Commission shall have professional or business experience in the fields of accounting, management or financial analysis as evidenced by being a certified public accountant, certified management accountant or having earned a master or doctorate degree in business, finance or public administration or the equivalent thereof; or, at least five (5) years of experience as a financial officer of a business

of public administrator or such other qualifications as may be further defined by ordinance.

**(2) Restrictions.** Notwithstanding the provisions of this Charter, no more than three (3) members of the Commission shall be members of the same political party. Furthermore, no person who has served in the previous three (3) years as a public official, other than a member of this Commission, or a political party officer shall be appointed to membership on the Commission. For purposes of this section, the term "public official" means an individual who holds or has held a municipal office (as defined in §9-372 but shall not include a justice of the peace or notary public) in the City and the term "political party officer" means an officer of a national committee of a political party, state central or town committee or any person employed by such committee for compensation.

**(c) Annual Budget of the Finance and Audit Review Commission.** The Commission shall adopt and forward to the Mayor its proposed annual budget, in accordance with the procedures and timetable established for other City departments. The Mayor's budget shall include, and the Board of Aldermen shall appropriate for support, maintain the staffing level as approved in the previous annual budget, unless the Commission requests a lesser amount.