

# *City of Albany*

## GENERAL FUND RESERVE POLICY



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## **SECTION 1: PURPOSE**

The purpose of this policy is to establish adequate financial reserves in order to prepare for the impact of economic cycles, natural disasters, and other events that may influence essential City services. For purposes of this Policy, the definition of “reserves” is limited to the portion of fund balance that is unreserved. Unreserved is to mean not set aside for existing legal obligations of the City, or other Council directed purposes (capital/equipment reserve accounts, special projects, etc.).

## **SECTION 2: TARGET RESERVE LEVELS**

The target level for total General Fund Reserves shall be at a minimum level of 25% of the adopted expenses.

## **SECTION 3: FUNDING TARGET BALANCE**

As of June 30, 2018, the City has enough reserve to cover the reserve amounts outlined in Section 2. However, if the City’s reserves should fall below that amount, the City will strive to restore these balances within a three-year period. Actions that may be considered to restore the balance include:

- Strategically reducing general fund operating budgets;
- Conduct a revenue study to update General Fund revenue sources which may have fallen behind;
- Conduct an analysis of general fund cost allocation to plan and ensure other City funds are paying the appropriate fees for administration.

## **SECTION 4: CONDITIONS FOR USE OF RESERVES**

The use of reserves shall be limited to unanticipated, non-recurring needs, or anticipated future obligations. Fund balances shall not be used for normal or recurring annual operating expenditures. Uses may include, but are not limited to:

- Interrupted cash flows;
- Emergencies/disaster;
- Capital and infrastructure needs which lack other funding sources.

The City Manager is authorized to make recommendations to the City Council for use of reserves. Any recommendation shall be accompanied by a proposal for the replenishment of the reserves to the City Council.

## **SECTION 5: USE OF BALANCES EXCEEDING THE MINIMUM BALANCE**

Amounts in excess of the reserve amount set in Section 2, including year-end surplus, should not be relied on in future budget periods and should only be used to stabilize existing revenues in times of economic downturn and for nonrecurring expenditures. The City Manager is authorized to make recommendations to the City Council to use any funds exceeding the minimum balance at any time to fund nonrecurring expenditures such as:

- Unfunded pension liabilities;
- Capital improvements;
- Equipment purchases;
- Other, one-time expenditures that are non-recurring in nature and which will not require additional future expense outlay for maintenance, additional staffing or other recurring expenditures.

#### **SECTION 6: REVIEW**

This policy shall be reviewed by the Finance Director each year during the preparation of the operating budget, and at least every 5 years by the City Council.