



Memorandum

To: Melrose City Council
From: Karen Blackburn, Chair of the Commission on Women
Re: FY24 Budget
Date: May 18, 2023

In preparation for the review of the Fiscal Year 2024 budgets, I am pleased to provide the Honorable City Council with a summary of the Commission's request.

The Commission on Women's FY24 operating budget (542) is projected to be level funded. Most of our expenses will be event related—venue rentals, food and beverage, collateral, and subject-matter experts—with a majority, if not all, being spent on women-owned businesses to further our goals.

Several long-time Commissioners termed off in FY23, but we will be heading into the upcoming fiscal year with a full commission for the first time in several years. Our plan to is to build on many of the successes of FY23; specifically:

- Focus on finding ways to build community and give opportunities for women to learn and develop skills—similar to the Perfecting Your Elevator Pitch event we hosted in February 2023 where almost 50 women, many new to our organization, gathered to learn tips and strategies to help them succinctly and confidently discuss their accomplishments and expertise in 45 seconds or less.
- Help community members understand how Federal and State legislation directly impacts them and their families—like the discussion we hosted on Reproductive Basics and Rights. A virtual panel featuring healthcare experts, community leaders and legislators in the wake of the Dobbs decision.

More importantly, once all the new Commissioners are installed, we plan to work together to develop a short-term strategic plan focused on educating the community on issues that matter most to women and women-identifying individuals, finding opportunities to bring these groups together for knowledge-sharing, skill building and understanding how to access and leverage local resources available to them, and leveraging social media and other structures to educate the community on the critical role women have played in our country's history.