

DEPARTMENTAL BUDGET INFORMATION ZONING APPEALS BOARD (51)

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

As a quasi-judicial body, the Board hears and rules on appeals from any person, aggrieved by a decision of an enforcing officer or any decision made by the Buildings and Safety Engineering Department where rigid enforcement could cause the appellant undue hardship.

DESCRIPTION

The Board conducts investigations and public hearings to determine whether variances, exceptions or modifications of approved regulated uses of land will be in the best interest of the public and that the spirit and intent of the zoning ordinance is upheld.

The Board of Zoning Appeals' primary role is to hear and decide appeals from and review any order, requirement, decision or determination made in the enforcement of the City of Detroit Zoning Ordinance. The Board has certain discretionary powers in making its decisions to comply with the powers granted to it by the local zoning ordinance and State Enabling Act. Any adjustment or reversal must conform to the provisions of the zoning ordinance and provide neighborhood and commercial stabilization.

MAJOR INITIATIVES FOR FY 2008-09

Several projects are underway to improve services: The Department is continually working with the City Planning Commission to conclude the comprehensive amendments to the City's new Zoning Ordinance.

The Department has streamlined the procedures for processing each appeals case. An appeal, which was formerly heard within sixty (60) days, is now heard before the Board of Zoning Appeals within approximately thirty (30) days after it is received.

The Department has updated its digital cameras and proxima projector system to provide a first-class visual presentation a Board of Zoning Public Hearings. These upgrades have made a major improvement of the presentations at the Board's Public Hearings.

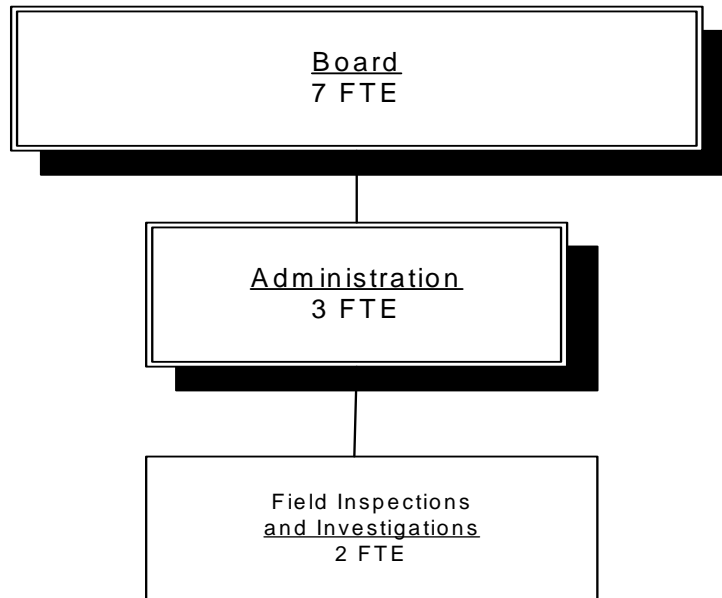
PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE FOR FY 2009-10, FY 2010-11 and BEYOND

The Department is currently planning to work with the ITS Department to develop a computer database that will allow the Board of Zoning Appeals to improve the log-in, tracking and processing of documents relative to each Board Case.

The Department is also working on amendments to the new City of Detroit Zoning Ordinance, which may result in improving services to citizens and additional training for Board Members and staff.

In the interest of improving the level of service, the Department will be developing a strategic plan, reviewing both the level of service and staffing over five (5) years.

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EXPENDITURES

	2007-08 Actual Expense	2008-09 Redbook	2009-10 Mayor's Budget Rec	Variance	Variance Percent
Salary & Wages	\$ 461,246	\$ 420,327	\$ 364,491	\$ (55,836)	-13%
Employee Benefits	269,029	270,792	255,055	(15,737)	-6%
Prof/Contractual	23,103	105,500	105,500	-	0%
Operating Supplies	5,636	3,000	3,000	-	0%
Operating Services	61,540	76,561	67,488	(9,073)	-12%
Fixed Charges	334	-	-	-	0%
Other Expenses	3,652	4,950	4,950	-	0%
TOTAL	\$ 824,540	\$ 881,130	\$ 800,484	\$ (80,646)	-9%
POSITIONS	6	6	5	-1	-17%

REVENUES

	2007-08 Actual Revenue	2008-09 Redbook	2009-10 Mayor's Budget Rec	Variance	Variance Percent
Sales & Charges	\$ 90,395	\$ 105,000	\$ 105,000	\$ -	0%
TOTAL	\$ 90,395	\$ 105,000	\$ 105,000	\$ -	0%

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