



November 2008

## **ASSISTANT FINANCE DIRECTOR**

### **DEFINITION**

Assists in planning, organizing, managing, and providing administrative direction and oversight for major finance, budget and accounting functions and activities of the Financial and Information Services Department; fosters cooperative working relationships among City departments, divisions, and with intergovernmental and regulatory agencies and various public and private groups; provides highly responsible and complex professional assistance to the Financial and Information Services Director in areas of expertise; and performs related work as required.

### **SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED**

Receives administrative direction from the Director. Exercises general direction and supervision over management, supervisory, professional, technical, and clerical staff through subordinate levels of supervision.

### **CLASS CHARACTERISTICS**

This is an assistant department head classification in the Financial and Information Services Department. The incumbent oversees, directs, and participates in major activities and programs of the Department, including finance, investment and cash management, budget, and accounting and is responsible for providing professional-level support to the Director in a variety of areas. Successful performance of the work requires an extensive professional background as well as the ability to coordinate departmental work with that of other City departments and public agencies. Responsibilities include performing and directing many of the department's day-to-day administrative functions. This class is distinguished from the Financial and Information Services Director in that the latter has overall management responsibility for all department functions and for developing, implementing, and interpreting public policy.

### **EXAMPLES OF ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)**

*Management reserves the rights to add, modify, change, or rescind the work assignments of different positions and to make reasonable accommodations where appropriate so that qualified employees can perform the essential functions of the job.*

- Assumes management responsibility for Finance programs and activities, including Accounting, Utility Billing, Passports, and Purchasing.
- Selects, trains, motivates, and evaluates assigned personnel; provides or coordinates staff training; works with employees to correct deficiencies; responds to staff questions and concerns.
- Participates in the development and implementation of goals, objectives, policies, and priorities for the Department; recommends, within departmental policy, appropriate service and staffing levels; recommends and administers policies and procedures.

- Assists in managing and participates in the development and administration of the department's annual budget; directs the forecast of additional funds needed for staffing, equipment, materials, and supplies; directs the monitoring of and approves expenditures; directs and implements adjustments.
- Continuously monitors and evaluates the efficiency and effectiveness of service delivery methods and procedures; assesses and monitors work load, administrative and support systems, and internal reporting relationships; identifies opportunities for improvement and reviews with the Director; directs the implementation of improvements.
- Assists in planning, directing, and coordinating the department's work plan; meets with staff to identify and resolve problems; assigns projects and programmatic areas of responsibility; reviews and evaluates work methods and procedures.
- Serves as a liaison for the Financial and Information Services Department with other City departments, divisions, and outside agencies; attends meetings, as necessary; provides staff support to commissions, committees, and task forces, as necessary; negotiates and resolves significant and controversial issues.
- Negotiates contracts and agreements; coordinates with City department representatives to determine City needs and requirements for contractual services.
- Coordinates agenda items policy issues with City Council and Budget Committee.
- Represents the Financial and Information Services Department to other City departments, elected officials, and outside agencies; explains and interprets departmental programs, policies, and activities.
- Conducts a variety of departmental organizational and operational studies and investigations; recommends modifications to programs, policies and procedures as appropriate.
- Participates on and makes presentations to a variety of boards and commissions; attends and participates in professional group meetings; stays abreast of new trends and innovations in the field of finance, budget, accounting and other types of public services as they relate to the area of assignment.
- Maintains and directs the maintenance of working and official departmental files.
- Monitors changes in laws, regulations, and technology that may affect City or departmental operations; implements policy and procedural changes as required.
- Prepares, reviews, and presents staff reports, various management and information updates, and reports on special projects as assigned by the Director.
- Responds to difficult and sensitive public inquiries and complaints and assists with resolutions and alternative recommendations.
- Serves as acting Director in the absence of the Financial and Information Services Director.
- Performs other duties as assigned.

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Knowledge of:**

- Principles and practices of finance, investment and cash management, budget, and public accounting including business administration, program development, implementation, and management in a municipal setting.
- Administrative principles and practices, including goal setting, program development, implementation, evaluation, and supervision of staff.
- Public agency budgetary, contract administration, administrative practices, and general principles of risk management related to the functions of the assigned area.
- Organizational and management practices as applied to the analysis and evaluation of projects, programs, policies, procedures, and operational needs; principles and practices of municipal government administration.
- Applicable Federal, State, and local laws, codes, and regulations.
- Principles and practices of employee supervision, including work planning, assignment, review and evaluation, and the training of staff in work procedures.

- Methods and techniques for the development of presentations, contract negotiations, business correspondence, and information distribution; research and reporting methods, techniques, and procedures.
- Record keeping principles and procedures.
- Modern office practices, methods, and computer equipment.
- Computer applications related to the work.
- English usage, grammar, spelling, vocabulary, and punctuation.
- Techniques for dealing effectively with the public, vendors, contractors, and City staff, in person and over the telephone.
- Techniques for effectively representing the City in contacts with governmental agencies, community groups, and various business, professional, educational, regulatory, and legislative organizations.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service to public and City staff, in person and over the telephone.

**Ability to:**

- Assist in developing and implementing goals, objectives, policies, procedures, work standards, and internal controls for the department and assigned program areas.
- Assist in preparing and administering large and complex budgets; allocate limited resources in a cost effective manner.
- Interpret, apply, and ensure compliance with Federal, State, and local policies, procedures, laws, and regulations.
- Plan, organize, direct, and coordinate the work of supervisory, professional, and technical personnel.
- Select, train, motivate, and evaluate the work of staff and train staff in work procedures.
- Research, analyze, and evaluate new service delivery methods, procedures, and techniques.
- Effectively administer special projects with contractual agreements and ensure compliance with stipulations; effectively administer a variety of community development programs and administrative activities.
- Conduct effective negotiations and effectively represent the City and the department in meetings with governmental agencies, contractors, vendors, and various businesses, professional, regulatory, and legislative organizations.
- Prepare clear and concise reports, correspondence, policies, procedures, and other written materials.
- Conduct complex research projects, evaluate alternatives, make sound recommendations, and prepare effective technical staff reports.
- Establish and maintain a variety of filing, record keeping, and tracking systems.
- Organize and prioritize a variety of projects and multiple tasks in an effective and timely manner; organize own work, set priorities, and meet critical time deadlines.
- Operate modern office equipment including computer equipment and specialized software applications programs.
- Comprehend and use English effectively including producing all forms of communication in a clear, concise, and understandable manner to intended audiences.
- Use tact, initiative, prudence, and independent judgment within general policy, procedural, and legal guidelines.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and harmonious working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

**Education and Experience:**

*Any combination of training and experience, which would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:*

Equivalent to graduation from an accredited four-year college or university with major coursework in finance, economics, budget, accounting, or a related field and six (6) years of management and/or administrative experience in finance, budget, and/or accounting.

**Licenses and Certifications:**

- Possession of a valid driver's license with a satisfactory driving record.

**PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

Must possess mobility to work in a standard office setting and use standard office equipment, including a computer; to operate a motor vehicle, and to visit various City and meeting sites; vision to read printed materials and a computer screen; and hearing and speech to communicate in person, before groups, and over the telephone. This is primarily a sedentary office classification although standing in work areas and walking between work areas may be required. Finger dexterity is needed to access, enter, and retrieve data using a computer keyboard or calculator and to operate standard office equipment. Positions in this classification occasionally bend, stoop, kneel, reach, push, and pull drawers open and closed to retrieve and file information. Employees must possess the ability to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects weighing up to 25 pounds.

**ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS**

Employees work in an office environment with moderate noise levels, controlled temperature conditions, and no direct exposure to hazardous physical substances. Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.