



**DETROIT CITY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 5  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
MARY SHEFFIELD**



**Statement on Support for Police Labor Agreement with Raises for Officers**



As it has been widely known decades in the City of Detroit, attrition among the rank and file at the Detroit Police Department far exceeds the national average due to the disparity in the pay between our officers and officers from nearly all other departments across the Nation. That’s precisely why over 4 years ago now, I requested the Legislative Policy Division provide a report which outlines potential revenue sources to increase the starting, and average pay, for DPD’s rank and file to the national average and made that initiative a part of inaugural People’s Bills. At that time, I even explored the possibility of requiring developers to repay a portion of the tax abatements they receive into a fund dedicated to increasing the pay of rank and file DPD officers. More recently, many of my colleagues and I requested the funds earmarked for the expansion of Shotspotter technology be used for the recruitment and retention of police officers.

So today is not only a great day for Detroit Police Officers but it is a great day for all of us for whom they risk their lives, day in and day out, trying to protect. The pay increases and new contract is long overdue, and I am proud to have stood up for the men and women in blue who represent some of Detroit’s finest public servants. I am also grateful that their labor representatives and membership had the foresight to allow the City to recoup the cost of training from officers who opt to leave to go to other municipalities shortly after they received the world-class training our academy offers. This new contract put the Detroit’s Police Department on more solid ground with respect to our ability to recruit, train and retain officers. In addition, it will go a long way to improving morale amongst the officers and ultimately, I hope, result in safer communities.

I look forward to continuing to honor and respect our everyday heroes through sound public policy and the approval of compensation packages that illustrate our collective appreciation.

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*Council Member Mary Sheffield represents the 5th District, which covers the lower eastside, downtown, the riverfront and central portions of Detroit. She was the chair of the Neighborhood and Community Services standing committee and a member of the Budget Finance and Audit standing committee. She was first elected to office in 2013 and is the youngest person ever elected to City Council in the history of Detroit.*

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