

Free P.P.E. Drive-Thru



PPE stands for Personal Protective Equipment and has seemingly become a habitual acronym in our vocabulary during the pandemic. PPE is one crucial way to stop the coronavirus spread and keep families safe as they work on the frontlines during the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the start of this year, our staff

partnered with the City's Health Department and held several drive-thrus for residents to receive a wellness bag conveniently and safely in their car. These bags were filled with hand sanitizer, KN-95 masks, sanitizing wipes, and a COVID-19 home test kit. The drive-thru was held outside our District Office, at the Matrix Center. Over two days and eight hours, we received nearly 500

cars and gave out over 3000 masks and 1000 sanitizing units. Throughout the pandemic, our office has supplied PPE to District 3 residents and ensured the community is equipped to stay healthy and safe. Although health restrictions and guidance are constantly changing, PPE and vaccination remain the resources that protect a person's physical well-being most.



Green Task Force Update

The role of the Green Task Force is to advise the Detroit City Council on green principles and practices to serve the City of Detroit better. The Green Task Force comprises numerous environmental advocacy groups, nonprofit organizations, ecological businesses, government employees, and residents. The Green Task Force works to create green jobs, improve environmental policy, and build a more sustainable city.

The task force comprises various committees representing many topics critical to supporting a healthier Detroit. Sub-committees

include Water, Renewable Energy, Energy Waste Reduction, Climate Action, Organics Recycling, and Recycling & Waste Reduction. This year, the Green Task Force is working on a policy to make it easier to install solar panels at residences. We are also working on a watershed plan for Detroit's east side. This plan will allow the city of Detroit to receive grant funding for preventing flooding in our neighborhoods. The Green Task Force has created an event guide manual for recycling for significant events held in Detroit. This guide will provide tips and procedures for handling recycling on a large scale.

Our Task Force is in the final stages of drafting the Benchmark Ordinance. This ordinance will mandate that all city and prominent buildings in Detroit report their energy use. This information will help the City of Detroit better estimate our carbon footprint. It will also allow us to manage better how we can put policies in place to reduce carbon emissions in our environment.

If anyone would like to help us in our work, please email Kerwin Wimberley at WimberleyKe@detroitmi.gov to express your interest. He will add you to our mailing list so you will be up to date on all our activities.

The proposed changes to Chapter 19 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, Food Article II City License for Food Service Establishments and Vending Machines posting requirement are:

- All signs will have the date issued. The sign shall be no smaller than 7x9 inches and must be posted in:
 - (A) The front window of establishment
 - (B) In a display case mounted on outside front wall within 5ft of front door and

- not less than 4ft from the floor. (C) Or, Posted in a location determined by the department.
- If an establishment has been established and is in compliance – a GREEN sign will be issued.
- If the food establishment has been inspected, but has uncorrected priority or priority foundation violations, the department will not issue a sign and will remove the green sign from the prior inspection. The food establishment must be

reinspected within 30 days to resolve the uncorrected priority or priority foundation violations.

- If an establishment is inspected and placed in the enforcement process, a YELLOW sign will be issued which will contain the words "inspected and enforcement process"
- If the establishment is closed as a result of the inspection a RED sign will be issued that will contain the words "closed by order of the Detroit Health Department".



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CITY OF DETROIT SCOTT BENSON'S NEWSLETTER

F A L L • W I N T E R 2 0 2 2

Letter from the Councilman

Dear Third District Residents,

Thank you for my reelection and for allowing me to lead and serve as your council member for another four years. We made it through another year in a pandemic and the winter. As summer fades and fall emerges, I do not want us to forget the loved ones we've lost, but to remember them with fond memories and look forward to our future. Although we seem to have normalized our lives, COVID is still active in Detroit. Therefore, please continue to practice proper safety protocols, get vaccinated and booster shots, and wear a mask in public indoor settings.

As we move into fall, I want to inform you of a few new priorities for our office:

- We are working on a new restaurant grading ordinance to ensure that food establishments serve safe food to our residents. We never want to see another situation where diseases such as Hepatitis A or rat infested coney dogs are sold to the residents of Detroit. This ordinance will ensure transparency, an educated consumer and that restaurants prioritize safe food handling processes.
- I have established the Wealth Generation Task Force (WGTF), which will bring together a group of individuals to develop and deliver ten implementable policy recommendations to the mayor's office by 31 December 2022. The goal will be to grow Detroit's middle class by moving Detroiters out of poverty, retaining our current middle class, and attracting middle-class individuals/families to Detroit from around the country. To become a competitive and financially sustainable city, Detroit must grow its middle class, and the WGTF will help to achieve this goal.

3. As a direct result of my advocacy and American Recovery Plan Act funds, the 3rd District will see a new gymnasium at Farwell Recreation Center and a refresh of the existing tennis courts. We have also completed a mural project to recognize the lives we lost to COVID and several of our community leaders that have gone on to glory.

Again, I thank you for allowing me to serve as your Detroit City Councilman, and I look forward to our continued growth and prosperity.

Yours in service,

Scott R. Benson
Scott R. Benson
3rd District City Councilman

"My mission is to enhance the quality of life in District 3."



City of Detroit
DISTRICT 3



FAQ: Detroit Home Repair Fund

Dan and Jennifer Gilbert's passionate belief that big problems require big solutions informs their commitment to curing neurofibromatosis and building opportunity and equity for Detroit residents.

Dan and Jennifer committed to NF research when their oldest son, Nicolas, was born with NF1. They established the Gilbert Family Foundation in 2015 to advance groundbreaking, cutting-edge NF research. They are focused on supporting the best ideas, no matter how radical they seem at first. Dan and Jennifer's commitment to building opportunity and equity for Detroit residents is rooted in their love and long-time passion for their hometown. The Gilbert Family Foundation's \$350 million, 10-year commitment to support the Detroit community builds on a decade of impactful investments, including the historic decision to relocate the Rock Family of Companies to downtown Detroit in 2010.

Learn more about each of these areas and the passionate teams helping us see the future we believe is possible.

What is the DHRF hotline number?

The DHRF hotline number is (313) 306-2082.

What do I need to do to qualify for the Detroit Home Repair Fund?

To be eligible for DHRF, you must:

- Call the hotline and speak with an operator
- Complete your 2022 HOPE application
- Have active gas and electric utilities
- Be an owner-occupied homeowner
- Be a resident of Detroit
- Meet income qualification guidelines, which are 200% of the Federal Poverty line as defined by the graph below.

Household Size 200% of Federal Poverty Line

1 person	\$33,975
2 persons	\$36,620
3 persons	\$46,060
4 persons	\$55,500
5 persons	\$64,940
6 persons	\$74,380
7 persons	\$83,820

If you have completed all these steps, you have put yourself in the best position possible to receive home repair assistance and a community partner will reach out to you when they are able.

I submitted my HOPE application, called the hotline, and meet all the requirements. What comes next?

If you have taken all the required steps and meet the eligibility requirements, a community partner will reach out when they are able with next steps.

If a resident's HOPE approval has rolled over from 2021 to 2022 due to age/disability, do they have to take any additional action?

If residents are on the carry forward list, or have already applied to the 2022 HOPE, they do not need to re-apply to HOPE to meet the DHRF requirements.

Is there an actual application for the program that I need to complete?

By calling the hotline, speaking with an operator, and completing your 2022 HOPE application, you are completing all the required steps for the Detroit Home Repair Program. There is not an "application" in the traditional sense. By calling into the hotline and completing your 2022 HOPE application, you are putting yourself in the best position possible for home repairs.

Will I be notified if I am approved or denied?

A community partner will reach out to you when they are able to take you on as a repair client. At this time, you will not be receiving an "approved" or "denied" letter. Because this is a new program, we are unable to say when you will be hearing from a community partner.

What if I have an emergency repair?

DHRF is not an emergency home repair program. If you have emergency repairs, please seek other options.

What will this program actually repair? My roof? Porch? Etc.

The program will fund a variety of home repair needs, potentially including roofs, porches and other repairs that prioritize health and safety. The program will not fund cosmetic repairs or upgrades to an outdated, but functional kitchen or bathrooms.

Do you need to have homeowners' insurance to qualify for the DHRF?

No, you do not.

When will repairs begin?

Community partners are expected to begin repairs in late summer of 2022, but we do not have a timeframe for the completion of individual repairs.

Annual Hats, Scarves, and Gloves Event



Detroit Councilman Scott Benson partnered with local, civic, and corporate leaders to donate winter coats to children in Council District Three. Last year marked the 8th anniversary of our annual winter clothing drive. To further promote education, we also gave away ten touch screen laptops to students at Fisher Lower Academy. The laptops were donated by Human-I-T.

Detroit City Councilman Scott Benson ensured 500 students in District Three were warm last winter. Our annual coat drive was a huge

success thanks to our community and corporate sponsors. They include The Ford Foundation, Comcast, Chemical Bank, Fishbone at Greektown, Stellantis Automotive Company, Detroit Veterans Associations, and many other community groups. We would like to also thank DPSCD and the staff at Fisher Lower Academy for allowing us to host the coat drive.

If you would like to participate with the annual coat drive this year please call our office at 313-224-1198. New donations only please.

New Employees Introduction: Greetings!



Damian Mitchell is the new Community Liaison with the Office of Councilman Scott Benson. In this role, Damian attends community meetings, assist in planning community outreach efforts and participate in door-to-door operations in the 3rd District. Damian has a plethora of experience working with the community. In his past roles, Damian was the former president of We Care Non-Profit organization, former Carrie Street Block Club president and served as a volunteer with Scott Benson's team. In 2012, Damian was appointed to the United States selective service by the Obama Administration. Damian enjoys serving the community and putting others first. Damian ensures giving people a quality experience aiding in their need for services throughout Detroit's 3rd District.



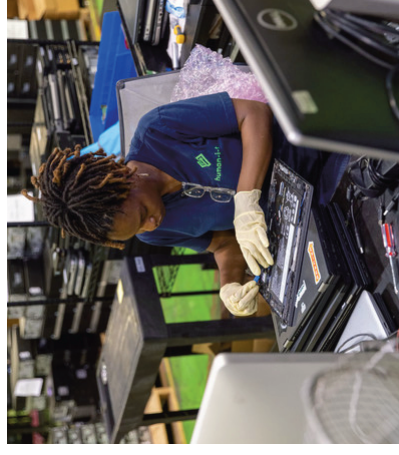
Teri Bright is the new Policy Analyst with the Office of Councilman Scott Benson. In this role, Teri conducts research, communicates with various partners and analyzes public policy initiatives for not only the 3rd District but the entire City of Detroit. Teri is from Savannah, Georgia and a HBCU graduate of Savannah State University with a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice. After working various positions throughout the criminal justice field and being a crime analyst for the Detroit Police Department, Teri wanted to be more involved in her graduate studies of public administration and public policy. Teri is passionate about research and studying the pros and cons of policies. Teri looks forward to bringing new ideas, implementing policies and assisting in improving Detroit's 3rd District. Teri is extremely excited and grateful to be a part of Councilman Scott Benson Office.

Joyce Ann Alfred is the City Council Board of Review member with the Office of Councilman Scott Benson. In this role, Joyce is responsible for evaluating and responding to property tax appeals brought before the Property Assessment Board of Review for Detroit's 3rd District. Joyce graduated from Bowling Green State University, Joyce serves as a member of the Cliff, Rogge, Carrie Block Club Association as a Secretary for the last 7 years in District 3. Joyce was successful in aiding the Radio Patrol organization, that now has 20 employed patrolmen. Joyce is a member of Greater Christ Baptist Church, where she is a vacation bible school instructor. Joyce enjoys educating the children, and encouraging kindness, consideration and manners. Joyce loves serving the public. As a representative for 3rd district Detroiters, Joyce will provide residents with valuable information and resources.

City donates 500 decommissioned computers to be refurbished and provided to Detroit families

between the City and nonprofit human-I-T. The donation of more than 500 decommissioned city computers is part of the City's larger strategy for bridging Detroit's digital divide through its partners at Connect313.

The City has delivered half of the computers today, and the remainder is expected in the coming weeks. All 500 computers first will be wiped of any existing and sensitive data. Most will be refurbished to be provided to Detroit families lacking access to technology by human-I-T and its community partners. Devices that are damaged or too old to be refurbished will be disposed of in an environmentally sensitive manner. "Our longstanding commitment to digital equity is realized through our partnerships," said Detroit's Director of Digital Inclusion, Joshua Edmonds. "This initiative will allow us to positively impact the environment



Part of Partnership with human-I-T to provide accessible technology to lower-income Detroit residents to bridge the City's digital divide

Hundreds of City government computers recently replaced with newer models will be completely refurbished and distributed for free to Detroit families in need of technology and access to the Internet, thanks to a partnership

while also empowering Detroit families with the technology needed to access opportunities in the digital age."

Suppose a family receiving a donated computer does not have internet access or needs assistance. In that case, human-I-T uses a 4-pillar approach to helping citizens acquire computer devices and internet access, as well as with tech support and training. While it will take several months before the donated city computers will be ready for distribution, families in need of a computer can get on a list to receive one from human-I-T from its existing inventory.

Residents of Detroit who would like access to low-cost computers, laptops, and tablets, or help getting reduced-rate broadband internet, or tech support or training can call 888-391-7249 or visit human-I-T.org.

City of Detroit tackles blight removal, blight remediation a priority in executing Mayor Duggan's Blight to Beauty strategy

- **Cross-departmental effort to reduce blight on 14 priority corridors.**
- **Property owners to be held accountable for blight on their buildings and surrounding their property per city ordinances.**
- **Multi-year strategy to transform Detroit and impact issues related to blight including improving quality of life, public health and safety, and reinforcing positive visual cues.**

The City of Detroit blight remediation team is responsible for executing Mayor Duggan's Blight to Beauty strategy. Using enforcement, remediation, and maintenance strategies, the Blight to Beauty initiative promotes property maintenance standards and improves the

appearance of properties throughout the City. The City is empowered by law to clean up blighted property when a blight ticket has been issued and the violations have not been corrected by the property owner. The cost of remediation is then added to the blight ticket fines and fees. Remediation invoices can range from several hundred dollars up to tens of thousands. The blight remediation team is simultaneously addressing city-owned properties while holding private owners accountable for dilapidated structures that have added to negative impacts across Detroit for decades.

The city is remediating, on average, twenty-six properties a week. Blight to Beauty is grounded in a belief that residents deserve a healthy environment. The City of Detroit Blight Czar, Katrina Crawley, Esq., is tasked with ensuring

that blight remediation is transformative in making Detroit the beautiful city that residents deserve. "We are working around the clock to make sure there is visible change for Detroiters," said Katrina Crawley, Assistant Director, Blight Remediation, City of Detroit General Services Department. "By doing this work we increase awareness about the actions the City is taking to reduce blight for the health, safety and dignity of Detroiters."

In the last four months, the blight remediation teams have completed remediations on 427 properties on 14 corridors around the city.

For more information, visit <http://www.detroitmi.gov> or email blight2beauty@detroitmi.gov.

Community Corner

Employment Jobs/Careers

Detroit at Work located at 5555 Conner Street has on the spot hiring, resume and job readiness. Accepts walk-ins or call 313.962.9675

Detroit Training Center located at 5151 Loraine Street has classes/training for skill trades, assist in job placement and provide certifications. Call 313.221.5876 for more information.

The City of Detroit has various departments that are hiring in all areas and levels, skilled, nonskilled, professionals etc. Visit our website: <https://detroitmi.gov>

Law Enforcement District 3

There is new leadership for police issues and concerns. Cedric Banks is your Board of Police Commissioner: 313.596.1830; Complaint Hot Line 313.596.2499

We have several new commanders and captains listed as followed:

5th Precinct, 3500 Conner St. 596.5500
Commander Keeth Williams
Captain Rebecca Mckay

7th Precinct 3501 Chene 596.5700
Commander John Svec
Captain Conway Petty

9th Precinct 11187 Gratiot 596.5900
Commander Gerry Johnson
Captain Lawrence Purfoy

11th Precinct 5100 Nevada 596.1100
Commander Jacqueline Pritchett
Captain Jevon Johnson

12th Precinct 1441 W. Seven Mile Rd. 596.1200
Commander Kurt Worboys
Captain Shanda Starks

New Pershing High School

Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) master plan recommends a new building on the existing campus. In addition, other schools will be renovated and/or demolished. DPSCD can be reached at 313.240.4377.

Meals on Wheels

Councilman Benson and staff, in partnership with Detroit Area Agency on Aging (DAAA), provided holiday meals to seniors. We thank Ella Hollingsworth and Nancy Chavis of Morton Manor, Maryann Robinson - Conner Creek I and Reverend Paulette Bronner - Conner Creek II for their help. Contact DAAA for all senior services at 313.446.4444.

Free Food Distribution

Food is provided for families at the Matrix Center, every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month from 2pm - 4pm. Drive-thru only. Location 13560 E. McNichols
You may also contact Ford Resource Engagement Center for dates and times for food and social services at 313.733.1240.

An affiliate of Goodwill Industries International, **Goodwill Industries of Greater Detroit** was founded in 1921, by Reverend John Martin. Committed to supporting veterans, returning citizens, those who are underserved, under- or unemployed, with mental health deficiencies or developmentally delayed, Goodwill Detroit's mission is co-creating independence and dignity through the power of personal and workforce development. Goodwill Detroit can assist with life skills development, training and job placement services. **For more information, visit www.goodwilldetroit.org or call 313-964-3900.**