



Bruce Simpson City of Detroit Ombudsman 2024-2025 Ombudsman Budget Recommendations

“Improving Your Quality of Life on a Daily Basis”

Ombudsman Recommendation

- To have a more robust representation within municipal government. Whether that representation comes in the form of a division of an existing department or a department that stands alone will be determined by the Detroit City Council’s ability to identify the necessary funding in the budget.
- We concur with Member Waters’ (Michigan Veterans Foundation).

Twenty-Four-Hour Business Requirements

Violent crimes and even homicides occur at establishments that have extended hours throughout the night and into the early morning. More specifically, businesses open after 2:00 a.m. or businesses that are functioning on a 24-hour basis. These businesses have a duty and responsibility to provide an environment conducive to the safety of their customers and our citizens.

Ombudsman Recommendation

These businesses provide additional lighting, security cameras, and security personnel (depending on how often the establishment is frequented throughout the night and by how many persons) to discourage violent crime at the noted locations.

In addition to the criteria, a grading system should be implemented to consider the number of violent crimes and/or homicides at the noted location.

Department of Appeals and Hearings (DAH) Collection Mechanism

- In 2023, the Department of Appeals and Hearings adjudicated 81,899 tickets.
- 2023 Blight Judgements Assessed: \$29,296M.
- 2023 Blight Judgements Collected \$4,727M.
- 2023 Blight Judgements Collection Rate: 16%

Ombudsman Recommendation

- The Department of Appeals and Hearings develop an efficient mechanism or multiple mechanisms to collect the money associated with tickets that have been issued.
- The collection of these funds represents the completion of the code enforcement process. Failing to collect sends the wrong message to violators of city code and to the many inspectors who work hard to write these tickets for compliance purposes.

*****Moreover, we would like to note that the collection rate for the 2022 Blight Judgement was only 23%.***

