

Dear Neighbors,

Coffee hours are a chance to meet with your at-large Council Member in an informal setting. You can ask questions about issues impacting your community, get more information on city government or offer ideas and solutions for matters facing our city.

At a recent coffee hour I had the honor of receiving a plaque from residents on Detroit’s west side in the Indiana, Kentucky and Wisconsin Street Block Club at a Coffee & Conversation event after my office addressed concerns about a hazardous sidewalk. However, serving you and other city residents is not something I work hard at every day to receive recognition or a thank you - it’s what I do because it’s my job.

In the two short years that I have been

in office, I have worked diligently to serve every Detroiter. From tackling blight with community board ups and a new amendment to the blight ordinance to establishing the Returning Citizens’ Task Force to my involvement in Project Green Light, my priority has always been ensuring safety and security and opportunity for residents in all neighborhoods.

These are just a few examples of the ways I have been serving residents all over the city since day one. However, I want to continue hearing your voice about issues important to our communities.

Whether it is attending community and block club meetings, hosting coffee hours, or knocking doors, I always look

forward to sitting down and working with residents from all walks of life to discuss concerns and ideas about how to make our city work better for everyone. At Coffee & Conversation events, you have the chance to become engaged with your community and make your voice heard to your Council Member-at-Large as I strive to improve the place that you and I call home.

My staff and I have already had the privilege of speaking to many Detroit residents. If we haven’t met yet, I encourage you to contact my office and to look out for future events like coffee hours and community group meetings where I would love to meet you and hear what matters to you.

Please feel free to contact me anytime at (313) 224-4248 or by email at [councilmemberayers@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmemberayers@detroitmi.gov).

Sincerely,

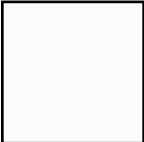
*Janeé L. Ayers*

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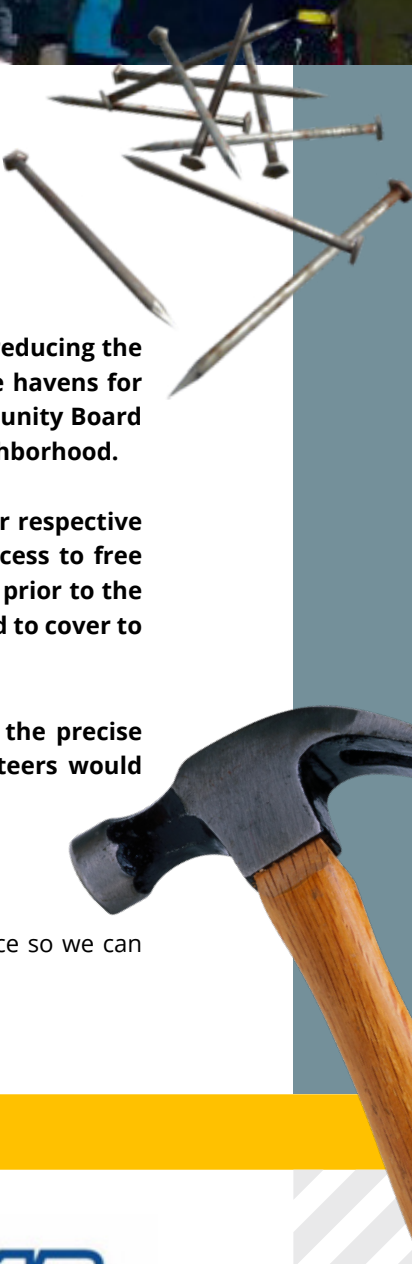
# HOW TO BOARD UP

In many of the community meetings that I have attended, a top priority of residents is reducing the number of abandoned and vacant houses in the city. Often these houses become safe havens for illegal activity or squatting, putting a strain on the neighborhood. As of 2015, the Community Board program allows engaged citizens to come together to tackle these concerns in their neighborhood.

With the support from the Mayor’s office, community groups can now reach out to their respective district managers with plans to board up houses in their neighborhood to be given access to free plywood. Individuals should scout the properties that they intend to target 7 to 10 days prior to the anticipated board up date and take measurements of the windows and doors they intend to cover to get an estimate of the amount of boards needed.

Ideally, having an experienced wood cutter on hand to assist in cutting the wood to the precise measurements would reduce waste and risk. Other necessary supplies for the volunteers would include: nails, gloves, ladders, and markers.

If you have any other questions or concerns regarding vacant homes, feel free to contact our office so we can assist you!



# FREE REFRIGERATOR REPLACEMENT PROGRAM



Do you have an old refrigerator that’s spiking your energy bill and draining your wallet? You may qualify for a **FREE** replacement with a brand-new Energy Star refrigerator through CLEARCorps/Detroit in partnership with DTE Energy!

**To qualify, you must:**

- Have a refrigerator built in the 2000 or before [if unsure, go to Appliance 411 (<http://www.appliance411.com/service/date-code.php>) to look up your appliance]
- Have a copy of your current DTE Energy bill and be in good-standing with your account
- Have proof of income for all adults living in the home (must be low or moderate income)
- Have the model number, serial number, brand, and measurements of your current refrigerator



We want to make sure that you can have an affordable energy bill while giving you an upgrade on your appliance. Saving money starts at home - you may be paying more for your energy than you need by keeping an outdated refrigerator! Call for details at (313) 924-4000, go online to CLEARCorps Detroit (<http://clearcorpsdetroit.org/our-programs/refrigerator-replacement>), or stop in to our office at 11148 Harper, Detroit, MI 48213 to pick up an application.





## DETROIT PROMISE

Since 2013, the Detroit Scholarship Fund has allowed **over 2,000 Detroit students** to attend community college tuition free. This has been expanded to include some four year institutions such as Michigan State University, University of Michigan, Eastern Michigan University, Wayne State University, and Western Michigan University. These colleges have an **unlimited amount of scholarships** to offer for Detroit Promise Students. If your student is a junior or senior that lives in the city of Detroit and attends a public, private, or charter school within the city of Detroit, your student may be eligible for the Detroit Promise Scholarship. For more information and details on this scholarship, please visit **DetroitScholarshipFund.com**

## M1 RAIL



**The M-1 Rail** also known as the QLine will be out and running soon along Woodward Avenue. The streetcar will be free to the public until Labor Day. Here are some key things to know about Detroit's newest form of transportation:

### Hours of operation:

The QLINE will operate from 6 a.m. – 11 p.m. Monday – Thursday, 6 a.m. – midnight on Friday, 8 a.m. – midnight on Saturday, and from 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. on Sunday.

### Logistics:

Each street car can carry up to 125 passengers. There will be 20 stations that serve 12 locations on its route. The QLine will not affect DDOT or SMART bus service in any way.

### Fare:

Fare will be **\$1.50**. There will also be Senior and Student discounts available.

**For further information, visit: <http://m-1rail.com>**







## MEDICAL *FIRST* RESPONDERS

In 2014, Detroit EMS response times were about 12 minutes, which was **4 minutes greater than the national average**. To combat this problem of higher medical response times, the city of Detroit has since began training firefighters to allow them to operate as medical first responders. More than 600 Detroit firefighters have since been certified to operate as medical first responders. These firefighters have responded to **over 30,000** medical runs since April of 2015. This has also brought the average response time down to 8 and a half minutes for medical emergencies. The hard work and dedication of these firefighters to go beyond the call of duty to offer **greater lifesaving services** to people in the city of Detroit is a testament to what can be accomplished in this city when we collect our resources and find creative solutions to the problems that face our community.



## TRADING PLACES

Michigan's Department of Corrections, Laborers' Local Union#1191, HerCo and the U.S Department of Labor has unveiled a new initiative called "Trading Places" which gives people who are incarcerated job skills and pre apprenticeship credits. The new program was unveiled in April of this year in the Richard A. Handlon Correctional Facility by Warden DeWayne Burton.

Trading Places is a Vocational Village where those who are serving time can **enhance their employability** by earning pre-apprenticeship credits through a training curriculum based on industry standards. "Trading Places" then helps to place them in trade jobs after their release. The program will allow interviews by video, FaceTime, and Skype for the employers and students. Students start interviewing for jobs about 90 days from their parole dates. Employers who have hired Vocational Village graduates are so pleased with their skill sets that they want to hire additional employees from Handlon. Graduates' resumes are **circulated locally among 100 employers**, and grads can choose possible employers by geographic area. Channel 6, an in-house television station, has job postings so graduates can see the job requirements, how much it pays

When the Vocational Village is operating at full capacity, 165 vocational trade students, 27 vocational trade tutors and 12 building trade workers are at work there, spending full days studying carpentry, electrical, plumbing, welding, machine tooling, computer numerical control and automotive technology. Training is through textbooks, video, virtual and hands-on practice on state-of-the-art machines.

To be licensed in Michigan, **graduates have to take eight exams** — and pass all eight to be a master-level mechanic. Since students can't go to the Secretary of State to take tests, the SOS sends the tests to Handlon to be administered, Then tests are returned to the bureau to be graded. If they pass, they'll walk out of prison with a license in hand.

**\*A second Vocational Village site is starting the second phase of construction this summer at Parnell Correctional Facility in Jackson.**

