



**DETROIT CITY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 5
OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER
MARY SHEFFIELD**



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Statement on Opposition to DPS Real Property Acquisition

Today, I voted to oppose the resolution authorizing the City of Detroit to acquire 77 properties from the Detroit Public School District. While there is certainly a need to abate, demolish and/or redevelop these properties, I had several reservations which lead to my decision to oppose this measure.

The following are reasons I could not support the measure:

- 1.) There is nothing in the agreement preventing the sale of the property to a developer who may open a charter school and compete with DPS.**
- 2.) It is unclear just how much of a financial burden the City would be undertaking by acquiring these properties.**
- 3.) The State of Michigan took over DPS creating many of these issues and should be held accountable for dealing with the blight it caused.**
- 4.) The City has tens of thousands of commercial and residential properties it either owns or has transferred to the Detroit Land Bank Authority. As such it is no secret that the City does not have the manpower to be an effective real estate agency and thus is not in the best position to take on this additional responsibility from DPS.**
- 5.) Finally, this measure is not related to the impending bankruptcy and was negotiated by the Emergency Manager of DPS without the consultation and/or approval of the elected Detroit Public Schools' Board of Education.**

I want to be clear that I am not opposed to partnering with DPS to improve the quality of life our students and residents. With that said, in my opinion, DPS classrooms are overcrowded and the City should be figuring out a way to help increase enrollment, open more schools and helping educate the children of Detroit if we are to be in a true partnership with DPS.

Ultimately, I want what's best for our City and its residents. At this time, I was not convinced that the City acquiring these 77 properties from DPS was in the best interest of any of the parties involved.

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