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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff
DATE: October 24, 2018
RE: Request to Find Innovative Methods to Notice Council Hearings

Council member Roy McCalister requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) look into finding innovative ways to widen the spectrum of noticing citizens, seniors in particular, of significant City Council hearings. Currently, the City of Detroit provides its written notices and the general printed business of the City in the Detroit Legal News, which is a newspaper of general circulation in the city, which satisfies the City legal obligation to notify the public of matters that require public notices. There are several references to a "newspaper published in the state," in State statutes which require public notification, such as Section 6 of the Open Meetings Act:

(2) Upon written request, a public body, at the same time a public notice of a meeting is posted pursuant to section 5, shall provide a copy of the public notice of that meeting to any newspaper published in the state and to any radio and television station located in the state... (MCL 15.266)

When the City of Detroit via the City Clerk's Office providing notice of the business transactions of the City in the Detroit Legal News, it satisfies the City's obligation to provide information and notices to the public. Current estimates from the City Clerk's Office has the expense at somewhere around \$400k to \$450k annually. Although precise figures on the numbers of items the Clerk's Office publishes via the Legal News are not known, we can safely say that that the legal publications are published on a nearly daily basis. Conversely, a recent singular emergency posting in one of the major newspapers in town cost the City \$28,000 alone. Given this fact, using the major newspapers in town as an alternative would be cost prohibitive. Thanks to the assistance of the Clerk's Office and staff of the Office of Procurement we are able to provide this estimate. But to date, we have not received an answer to our request for a costs comparison for the other newspaper published in the state, even though we believe other newspaper options today would have a very limited utility at best.

However, two viable alternatives may include posting information on certain select hearings that may have a particular interest to the public, would be on the City's cable channels at perhaps little or no costs or on the City's website as a "City bulletin board." If it is the will of Council, LPD can draft a resolution which articulates these ideas and forward them to the Administration as Council's request.