



Community Impact Summary of Our Outreach in 2018 Alone

500+
Resource &
Expungement
Fair Attendees

The Returning Citizens Task Force, partnering with Project Clean Slate & Lakeshore Legal Aid, provide job placement, housing, counseling, & expungement resources.

To stay in touch with what's going on in every neighborhood, my team and I attend as many block club and neighborhood meetings as possible.

256
Community
Meetings

13 Coffee/
Satellite
Hours
202 Guests

My office hosts monthly meetings rotating in each council district, giving residents the opportunity to voice their opinions & concerns.

Responding to resident calls & emails, we help resolve all types of issues: from plowing snowed in streets & mowing vacant lots, to demolishing abandoned homes.

883
Issues
Resolved

90K
Social Media
Impressions

Using the power of social media, we can update residents & receive feedback faster and more effectively. Visit our Facebook page @councilmemberayers

2018 Legislation Highlights

During my first full term, I was elected as Chair of the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee and Vice-Chair of the Public Health & Safety Committee, and worked on the following:

Keeping Detroit Youth Safe

In order to protect our youth playing outdoors, we've enacted new laws on weapons & animal control in parks/public places:

- Pneumatic guns (air rifles, paintball guns, etc.) are forbidden unless used in an area designated by the City.
- Stricter regulations on retractable leashes for dog walkers.

Maintaining recreational spaces for our children & families to play is a vital part of every neighborhood. By setting guidelines for use, more residents can enjoy them safely.

Fair Chance Act

One of the biggest challenges for returning citizens is finding permanent housing. Often, it's too expensive or they are rejected due to their criminal record. This ordinance will require housing providers to:

- Establish if an applicant is qualified to rent **BEFORE** conducting a criminal background check.
- If a person has a criminal record, they can only be disqualified if the type of crime is related to their past housing or shows that they may pose a serious threat to other renters.

Our goal is to maintain a balance between keeping Detroit neighborhoods and housing communities safe while giving as many returning citizens a fair chance as possible.



AYERS CARES.



We'd Love to Hear from You!

If you would like to:

- ☒ Ask us a question
- ☒ Get involved / volunteer
- ☒ Report an issue / problem
- ☒ Share news / community events
- ☒ Acknowledge people making a difference

Contact us and we'll respond quickly as possible:

✉ councilmemberayers@detroitmi.gov

Tel: **(313) 224-4248** Fax: **(313) 224-1524**

Follow us on Facebook: @councilmemberayers

Visit our website: Detroitmi.gov/janeeyayers

for the latest news, resources & upcoming events



Dear Neighbors,

Welcome to the Ayers Cares Newsletter Winter 2018/2019 Edition. I am excited to share important info with you on the progress we're making to improve your quality of life. As Vice Chair of the Public Health & Safety Committee, I am very proud of the job our Police, Fire, EMS, and Transportation personnel are doing to serve the city. While as chair of the Budget, Finance & Audit Committee, I am working hard to ensure each of these departments are adequately funded and running efficiently.

Earlier this year, the City passed its third straight balanced budget since exiting bankruptcy ending direct oversight of the State of Michigan's Financial Review Committee. I pledge to you my utmost attention and dedication to ensure that we remain fiscally responsible.

Our office also manages the Returning Citizens Task Force, which connects individuals with resources to expunge their criminal records, find housing and secure employment. Last July, we held our first pop-up resource fair at the Rosa Parks Transit Center. It was a pleasure providing valuable info & opportunities for many that may have lost hope. Following this success, we are planning additional pop-up resource fairs soon. If you, or someone you know needs assistance, do not hesitate to contact us.

One of my favorite aspects of being on City Council is having the opportunity to meet with all of you. You'll find my staff and I at block club meetings, community gatherings, and special events across the city to learn what we can do to make Detroit work better for you.

As an At Large City Council Member, I represent the entire City of Detroit and its nearly 700,000 residents. While this is a major responsibility, I make it my daily mission to approach every citizen with my undivided attention. If you are in need of help, or would like myself or a member of our dedicated A-Team to attend a community meeting, please reach out to my office anytime at **(313) 224-4248** or via email: councilmemberayers@detroitmi.gov. We look forward to serving you!

Sincerely,

Janeé L. Ayers

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Council Member At Large
City of Detroit

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JANEÉ L. AYERS
Council Member At Large

Ayers Cares Newsletter
Winter 2018/2019



Strategic Neighborhoods

SNF Planning Projects (Original 3)
Expanded SNF Planning Projects

The Strategic Neighborhood Investment Fund is expanding by \$130 million to include seven more areas that will touch over 60 individual neighborhoods over the next five years. The fund will target three specific goals: 1) the development of our commercial corridors, 2) rehabilitation of vacant structures, and 3) park improvements.

Commercial corridor development will focus on financing business and multi-family residential development as well as improving walkability. Single-family home rehabilitation will be targeted specifically to increase neighborhood density, while park improvements will focus on both maintaining our current parks & creating new ones.

A major focus of the Strategic Neighborhoods initiative will be maintaining and creating affordable housing. The city will be investing additional dollars to preserve 10,000 affordable units and generate 2,000 more across these target neighborhoods. To ensure that these areas are developed holistically, benefitting current residents instead of ignoring or displacing them, the city will insist upon strong community engagement during the planning process.

After a year of discussions & input, the Grand River Northwest Community is beginning their planning phase. In Jefferson Chalmers, Russell Woods/Nardin Park, Campau/Banglatown and Warrendale, the community engagement process is just starting; and in Gratiot/7-Mile and East Warren/Cadieux, the process will kick off early this year.



Connecting with the Community

As one of the City's at-large representatives, our office assists Detroiters across all seven council districts. One of our top priorities is connecting residents with the key resources and information they need to improve their quality of life. We are passionate about meeting with our diverse population city wide through Coffee & Conversation, Satellite Hours, and community specific meetings. Look for upcoming events near you as we visit each district over the next 7 months.

Our recent **Coffee & Conversations** have been a huge success, giving residents a chance to sit down with our office and have intimate, personal discussions covering various issues in their neighborhoods. These gatherings are hosted at easily accessible locations such as local coffee shops or restaurants with usually 20 - 60 attendees.

Last year, we took an entirely different approach to our **Satellite Hour** sessions. Instead of directing residents to meet us at a central location, we're bringing resources directly to the community. Once a month, we set up shop in areas with an influx of daily foot traffic such as community centers, rec centers, and bus stations. We want to engage residents who typically can't make their way downtown for assistance, and connect them with vital resources they may not be aware of.

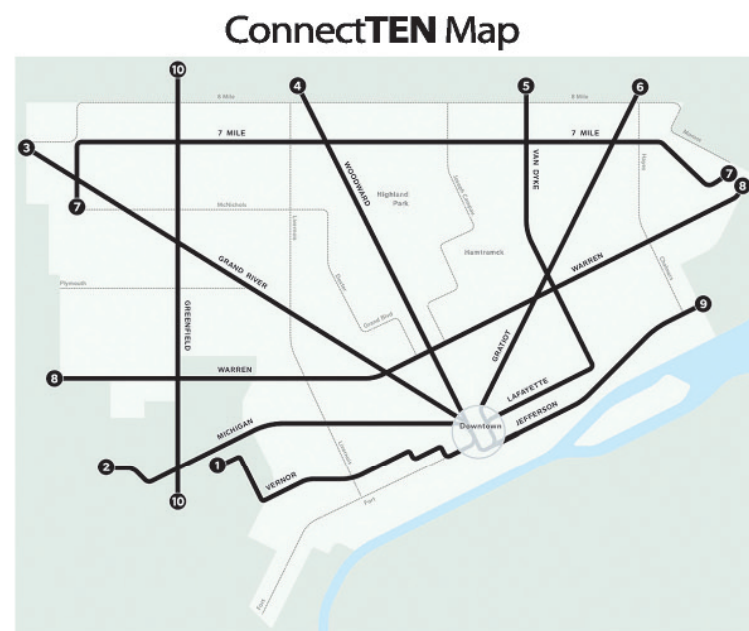
The Returning Citizens Task Force will be on hand to provide individuals with a history of incarceration with useful information to assist them in overcoming barriers, along with representatives from city departments and private agencies providing additional services to the community at large. Our team looks forward to meeting with you at our next event!

ConnectTEN: DDOT Bus Service Upgraded & Rebranded

It's getting easier & simpler to ride the bus in Detroit as DDOT launches upgraded service under a new brand: ConnectTEN. In September 2018, the ten most popular routes used by 60% of riders (see map) were renumbered 1-10 (see chart below)

Old Route #	New Route #
49 Vernor	1 Vernor
37 Michigan	2 Michigan
21 Grand River	3 Grand River
53 Woodward	4 Woodward
48 Van Dyke/Lafayette	5 Van Dyke/Lafayette
34 Gratiot	6 Gratiot
45 Seven Mile	7 Seven Mile
14 Crosstown	8 Warren (new name)
25 Jefferson	9 Jefferson
22 Greenfield	10 Greenfield

Other Route Changes	
7 Cadillac/Harper	67 Cadillac/Harper
9 Chalmers	68 Chalmers
10 Chene	52 Chene



All ConnectTEN routes will feature:

- 24/7 service
- Improved bus stops
- WiFi on new buses
- 10-20 min. wait times during peak hours of Mon-Fri 6-9am & 3-6pm

New Lower Bus Fares

Beginning in May, DDOT will offer new simplified ticket and pass fares with reduced rates extended to Seniors/Disabled, Students, and Medicare recipients (see chart below).

- 4 Hr** **4 Hour Ride Ticket** - Unlimited rides for 4 hours. Replaces base fare & eliminates need for transfers.
- 1** **24 Hour Ride Ticket** - Unlimited rides for a full day. Available on all DDOT buses and at retail locations.
- Mobile Fare Payment** - Pay via Smartphone for 24 Hour or 31 Day Passes. Reduced fare options. Expanding to remaining passes.
- Rolling Passes** - All passes start on first use, and continue for the assigned number of hours/days. Expanding locations & options for purchase.

Tickets	Valid On DDOT	Valid On SMART	Standard Price	Reduced Fare
4 Hour	✓	✓	\$2	\$0.50
Passes				
24 Hour	✓	✓	\$5	\$2
7 Day	✓	✓	\$17	\$8
	✓	✓	\$22	\$10
31 Day	✓	✓	\$50	\$17
	✓	✓	\$70	\$29

FREE Bus Passes are provided to the following groups:

- Grow Detroit's Young Talent
- Returning Citizens (via PO's & Detroit At Work Centers)
- Year Round Youth Services
- Jobs for Michigan's Grads
- YouthBuild

Stopping Deed Fraud

The Wayne County Mortgage & Deed Fraud Unit was created in 2005 to investigate cases where a person forges a signature on a document transferring any interest in real estate OR transfers property they do not have a legal right or interest in. It is a felony punishable by up to 14 years in prison.

To file a complaint, call the **24/7 HOTLINE: (313) 224-5869** or go to waynecounty.com/elected/deeds, click "Mortgage & Deed Fraud Unit Tab" and select "Complaint Submission Form." Keep in mind, the Unit does not handle:

- Probate or Estate concerns
- Landlord-Tenant issues
- Property owner lookups
- Civil Court proceedings
- Squatters
- Emergencies
- Property Tax issues
- Any kind of legal advice

Tips For Homeowners to Protect Their Property:

- Sign up for Fraud Alerts at waynecountylandrecords.com and click on the "Fraud Guard" Tab at the top of the page.
- Check your deed status at the Register of Deeds often.
- Keep your deed, mortgage & title paperwork in a safe place.
- If you own a vacant property, make sure you or someone you trust checks on it frequently and maintains the lawn, etc.

Tips For Buyers to Purchase a Property:

- A Quit Claim Deed does not guarantee ownership rights. Perform a title search and check whose name the taxes or utilities are in, or consult with an attorney.
- Avoid paying cash for a property and always get a receipt.
- Documents should be signed in front of a notary. Make copies of and save all paperwork involved.
- If it seems too good to be true, it probably is.

