



Courtesy of the Office of Council President Brenda Jones

Detroit City Council Digital Outreach Meeting

April 2, 2020

Council President Brenda Jones, Detroit City Council

- Another digital outreach meeting will occur tomorrow April 3rd, 2020
- Although tested positive for COVID-19, Council President is feeling well and willing to serve the City of Detroit.
- Please stay home and take all necessary precautions to maintain good health.

William C. McConico, Chief Judge, 36th District Court

- Limited operations of the court
- Only open for essential services, family members of/or a defendant in custody for traffic misdemeanors, etc. using same technology, zoom, for preliminary exams and videos for jailers
- Landlord tenant and civil and small claims docket has been suspended
- Bond payments can still be made
- Want few people in courthouse as possible but still serving the public





- Sheltering in place, increase in domestic violence, how can someone file for PPO? Domestic violence, criminal sexual misconduct in 4th degree, traffic violations; filed same exact way nothing has changed, and cases are being run as an emergency/essential service, call police to come to scene. Stalking cases are also considered essential. PPO at police station/local police precinct, forwarded to Wayne county prosecutor's office, then given to 3rd circuit court functions have not been curtailed at all
- Temporary suspension of evictions mean residents do not have to pay rent? No. Residents are still obligated to pay rent but moratorium to come collect rent is in place. If rent is established, process must occur to if there are economic hardships. People cannot be evicted between now and April 17th, 2020
- Must have court order for illegal eviction, if evicted illegally what do? 313-965-8736 call court office and alert if this occurs, illegal evictions is a criminal matter
- Does there need to be proof of ability to pay rent to avoid eviction? Forbearance from insurance companies but unsure of landlords. Contact landlords and apartment complex to determine terms to best accommodate during this time. Detroit has highest rate of evictions in the country.
- Goal is to put the people first and giving highest level of judicial service





Eric Sabree, Wayne County Treasurer

- Office is closed
- How can someone sign up for pay as you stay? Just getting starting, received over 400 eligible applicants, sending out notices and telling them who to contact, everything being done by mail, working on launching a site for this program, foreclosures are suspended for this calendar year, eligible through local assessor and receive a poverty exemption, taxes that are unpaid
- Email at taxinfo@waynecounty.com , 2 people working at either the office or remotely at home
- Contacting homeowners who need to enter an agreement now and exactly what to do? Yellow envelopes on doors? Contacting people by phone or text who they have numbers for, sent out 2000 in last 2 days, most taxpayers pay in person which can be difficult, and they need to get used to paying in alternative formats such as kiosk and online
- Trying to have online payment plan option, being developed, will be done in next 2 weeks
- Have to contact office by mail currently, mail address email phone number name
- Penalties and interests waived? Accrues on unpaid balance and can be waived by state legislature if they decide to do that
- Penalties, interests, fees eliminated with pay as you stay program





- 2 locations: 400 Monroe 5th floor Detroit Michigan 48226 and lock box at 554889 48232 by Comerica bank legit mailing addresses
- Do not give money to anyone outside of treasurer's office
- Treasurer.waynecounty.com

Willie Donwell, Administrator/Chairman, Detroit Property Tax Board of Review

Property Assessment

- If an appeal has been filed, how can people receive a response? Do we have to wait until governor order has been lifted? Evaluation appeal has been completed and final signing of tax roll is occurring Monday April 6 via same model through zoom
- Anyone available to answer questions regarding property tax exemption forms? No one in office every but can use detroitmi.gov/hptap or hptap@detroitmi.gov, everything being done remotely
- Extension for filing for exemption? Deadline is till December 14th, 2020 per state law to determine applications, there is time but please send in asap to be reviewed
- If applied for exemption and receive it, will it show before summer tax bill comes out? Everything already completed will receive this
- Will continue to process apps on weekly basis until beginning of May





- Be especially cautious of filing for exemptions if you need it, processes will be following the law once COVID-19 passes

Dr. Chad Audi, CEO and Chairman of Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries

- Assisting homeless with proper hygiene techniques and handwashing procedures? Yes, but there is not enough supplies, such as hand sanitizer, to give everyone. However, hygiene kits and showers and hot water are provided at the facilities for individuals to use.
- Currently overwhelmed trying to coordinate efforts, having to downsize staffing that can accommodate individuals through the ministry
- Has become a challenge, in constant talk with city to accommodate anyone who needs service
- All shelters and warming centers are operating 24/7, cannot force people to stay but encouraging them to stay
- COVID-19 screenings available? Temperatures checks upon arrival for residents and medical personnel, questionnaires provided and seeking assistance from health department to move infected to quarantine sites





Donald Rencher, Director, HRD

- What is city doing to help homeless population? These individuals do not have the ability to shelter in place in a private location, cannot not separate from each other, however, trying to find overflow shelters spaces in available buildings so people can receive necessities, food, and medical care.
- Nurses going every other day to shelters to see if people are symptomatic and taking them to alternative shelter spaces to receive proper care
- Wayne state is partnered with and assisting in procedures
- Most of hand sanitizer and supplies has gone to 1st responders but they are pushing to to get supplies to the shelters and residents
- Is outreach team out right now and are available spaces ready to house homeless people?
Yes, but varies depending on location.
- Can be contacted at 313-484-4449 for anyone needing guidance or assistance for homeless individuals, there is enough space to accommodate individuals
- Working with shelters to ensure that hours are extended? Additional funding was given to all shelters prior to COVID-19 outbreak and 90 day rule that you must move after 90 days but





this rule no longer stands, everyone can stay as long as the need/want to especially during this time.

Public Q & A

1. Is the funding for the care act coincide with housing revitalization act? How does this affect individuals becoming eligible for these programs?

The bill is providing federal funding to help and assist housing related issues. Tomorrow there is a phone to break down how the money can be appropriately used. There are rules and regulations to how the money can be spent. This has received a lot of attention and the office hopes to provide more assistance and opportunities for those who are homeless and suffering from housing issues. Still determining how much funding will be received.

2. How does a homeless person provide an accurate census representation without an address?

If they are residing in a facility, DRMM can use the facility address to file the census as long as they are not counted at another address. Computers are provided at facilities to fill out the census form.

3. Current moratorium on evictions, why does the stay at home order not translate into the moratorium on evictions?

The court will match any orders given by the governor regarding evictions. If the moratorium has been extended, the court will also extend it.





4. Is the 36th district court under the moratorium restrictions or stay at home order and when will the court resume normal functions?

The orders do not have a direct correlation on the 36th district court, orders are received from the Supreme Court, more specifically the chief justice. To close the court, orders must be directly received from SCOTUS, but they often mirror orders of the governor.

5. Is the Salvation Army available to take people in?

The Salvation Army is specifically for people showing symptoms and who are COVID-19 positive. Please call 313-484-4449 to contact appropriate shelters to accommodate housing needs.

6. Are there services that local companies can offer to the city and how to do so?

Please contact the Office of Brenda Jones to schedule and discuss ways in which these companies can assist the city.

7. Are these outreach meetings recorded and how can individuals receive this information? Can money be allocated for housing for rent and mortgage assistance for residents?

The city will be receiving funding and has a scheduled meeting tomorrow to discuss the amount and usage of this funding. Information is being shared between differing housing departments and agencies to best accommodate citizens. They are hoping to use this funding freely where needed.





8. Is new-build construction considered essential under the orders of the governor?

No, however, if the construction work is considered an emergency, then it is deemed as essential.

The type of construction is also taken into consideration. The Police Department is currently handling all construction business throughout the city.

9. Upon a current eviction and unusual circumstances, what should the individual do next and how should they proceed with daily activities?

There should not have been an eviction occurring on that day, please call the office of the Chief Judge at the 36th District Court for emergency remedy relief at 313-965-8736. Please also contact Board of Police Commissioners 313-596-1830 to file complaint against an officer.





Closing Comments:

Judge –

- Stay safe and take COVID-19 seriously.
- For paying emergency bonds and dealing with custody cases, the court is still functioning.

Rencher –

- Please call 313-484-4449 for housing assistance if needed.
- Please reach out to mortgage companies if experiencing financial hardships at this time.

Audi –

- If you know someone who needs assistance, please contact DRMM, doors will not close.
- 24/7 hotline at 313-993-4700 always readily available for the public.

Sabree –

- Please contact the treasury office for any questions or concerns.
- Do not panic, the city has the best interests of residents in mind.

Donwell –

- The Board of Review is here to assist citizens.
- Please stay home and contact the office if assistance is needed. Email, phone, or mail are the best ways to contact the office. Please turn in forms and applications as soon as possible.

