

Proposed Amendment of Chapter 12 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, *Community Development*, by adding Article 10, Community Engagement

Community Engagement provides residents with the opportunity to weigh in on important issues impacting their communities. This ordinance seeks to create a standard community engagement policy within the City of Detroit to last for years to come and withstand any administration or legislative body. The first of its kind, this legislation has the potential to pioneer community engagement policies in communities across the nation.

Sec. 12-10-1. Purpose

Implementation of community outreach and engagement policies that promotes transparency and accountability and ensures community input on legislation, contracts, agreements, and resolutions affecting the social and economic development of the City.

Sec. 12-10-2. Definitions

Community Engagement means public engagement, community engagement, citizen engagement, public hearing, and public comment, and includes, but is not limited to, any form of in-person, technology-aided, or online communication that provides for discussion, dialogue, or deliberation among participants, allowing residents to engage meaningfully in local problem identification, and/or problem solving related to community challenges, problems, and opportunities.

City Wide Proposal means all ballot initiatives, bond proposals, amendments to the City of Detroit Master Plan and the Mayor's annual recommended budget referred to City Council that impact residents across the City, and shall require one community engagement meeting in each of the seven City Council districts.

Community Proposal means all proposal types referred to City Council relating to the installation of bike lanes, sale of surplus property, installation of camera surveillance technology, neighborhood planning studies, street scape projects and construction that impact residents within a community. Community Proposals shall require at least two community engagement meetings which shall be distributed throughout the impacted communities.

Sec. 12-10-3. Community Engagement

Community Engagement Process

- 1) Before submitting a request for the approval of legislation, contract, agreement, or resolution relating to City Wide Proposals or Community Proposals, the Administering Department in collaboration with the Department of Neighborhoods shall hold:
 - a. One community engagement meeting in each of the seven (7) City Council districts for all *City Wide Proposals*.
 - b. Two (2) community engagement meetings. If in-person meetings, meetings are to be held throughout the impacted communities for all *Community Proposals*.
 - i. Determination of impacted districts is decided by the Department of Neighborhoods or the administering department.
- 2) All community engagement meetings will be scheduled within a reasonable time frame prior to City Council's consideration and approval of each proposal.
- 3) All meetings will be open to the public and noticed.
- 4) The Administering Department in collaboration with the Department of Neighborhoods will forward notice of each community engagement meeting in the following manner:
 - a. Posting on the City of Detroit's website, the Department of Neighborhoods website, and the City of Detroit's social media pages; and
 - b. Sending an e-mail to all registered community groups registered with the Department of Neighborhoods.
 - c. For in-person meetings, some method of notification to all residents within 300 radial feet.
- 5) The administering department will present general information about the proposed legislation, contract, agreement or resolution at the meeting(s).
 - a. The administering department will discuss ways in which the proposed legislation, contract, agreement or resolution is anticipated to impact the subject community, and ways in which the City plans to address or mitigate any negative impact.
- 6) City Council will appoint a liaison from the Legislative Policy Division to monitor the community engagement process for each proposed

legislation, contract, agreement or resolution and provide updates to the City Council.

Community Engagement Report

- 1) The Administering Department in collaboration with the Department of Neighborhoods will provide a Community Engagement Report to the City Council regarding the proposed legislation, contract, agreement or resolution before the request for any approval of City Wide Proposals, District Proposals, Community Proposals, or Neighborhood Proposals.
- 2) Community Engagement report must contain the following:
 - a. A detailed account of notice provided to organize the community engagement meeting(s)
 - b. An itemized list of concerns raised by the community at the meetings required.
 - c. A proposed method to address each of the concerns raised by the community, or why a concern will not be addressed.

Sec. 12-10-4. Exemptions

The requirement of this Article may be waived by resolution of the City Council upon submission by the Director of the Department of Neighborhoods, identifying reasons that the requirement of this Article are impractical or infeasible, and identifying how the City will otherwise provide an opportunity for community engagement.

Special Note

- The community engagement ordinance is a fluid piece of legislation creating a community engagement standard within the City of Detroit.
- The ordinance can be amended at any time to add specific activities to one of the four community engagement proposal categories.
- The ordinance is not trigger driven. Activities subject to the two community engagement categories are explicitly laid out in the ordinance.
- The fluid nature of the ordinance creates a standard community engagement process that is both flexible and enforceable by the Administration.
- Creating triggers proved to be burdensome due to the variety of impacts and types of proposals that come before the legislative body for approval.
- The ordinance is easily amended to add any new proposals.
- Approvals tied to Community Benefits Agreement Ordinance are not required to adhere to the Community Engagement Process.