



CITY OF DETROIT
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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TO: Council President Brenda Jones
Honorable City Council

FROM: *BWD* Brad Dick, Group Executive
General Services Department

DATE: June 4, 2020

RE: Youth Summer 2020

The financial situation of the Parks and Recreation Department has not changed, as our anticipated budget was cut by \$3.7M from this summer's staff and programming. Given these financial constraints, we are unable to open the recreation centers at this time, with the exception of critical food distribution work and cooling centers for days in the summer when the Mayor, on advice of the Health Department, declares a Heat Emergency. These cuts also impact our ability to provide staff to monitor our 294 parks citywide.

However, this does not mean that Parks and Recreation has not been proactive in light of Covid-19. We have now distributed over 500,000 meals to families with our limited remaining staff. Furthermore, we have convened citywide recreation programming stakeholders to a group called the "Recreation Task Force." This group has worked in partnership with the health department to develop local guidelines, protocols, and procedures for the safe re-opening of indoor recreation programming (for our citywide partners), specific outdoor park amenities, and clear and consistent communication about the return to play citywide. We have connected Rec Task Force program providers directly to our City's health department for support, as well as a broad network of social and emotional health supports for Detroiters dealing with trauma, grief, and other stressors. This was something we knew from the community was necessary prior to covid-19, and even more so now.

We are in the midst of revamping our permitting process to include health department sign off during this time (prior to widespread vaccine prevalence). Parks and Rec is also working to reopen splash pads and other amenities for the summer in a safe manner and on a case-by-case basis guided by the Health Department, as well as developing a plan for limited Parks and Recreation programming to be offered after July 1st. We are confident in our process and working tirelessly to give everyone (from young children to seniors) opportunities to safely be outside together.

If you have any additional questions or concerns, feel free to contact my office at 313-628-0913.

cc: Honorable City Council
Denise Fair – Health Department
Avery Peeples, Mayor's Liaison