



Mayor's Office

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Detroit City Council

FROM: Arthur Jemison, Group Executive-Planning, Housing & Development
LaJuan Counts, Director, Demolition Department
Boysie Jackson, Director, Office of Contracting & Procurement

DATE: July 18, 2020

RE: **RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRENDA JONES REGARDING NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM – Part 2**

Honorable City Council:

These answers are in response to your written questions from Friday, July 17th:

QUESTION 1: **From our understanding there is a process in place for the oversight and management of previous or current bond dollars that will be utilized for this process.**

- 1. What is the timeline of completion for OFCO standard operating procedures for the Neighborhood Improvement Bond? (*Submission of procedures are requested prior to City Council consideration to ensure proper oversight and management of the bond dollars.*)**

ANSWER: These will be submitted by the time of the start of the council session in September, assuming passage.

QUESTION 2: **Separating the abatement from the demolition contracting process will allow the following:**

- Enhanced departmental oversight over abatement.**
- Eliminate bid mark up and improve pricing.**
- Increase contract opportunities for small and minority owned businesses.**
- Expedite demolition to improve the safety of our neighborhoods.**

- 1. Please explain why current COVID-19 financial constraints are preventing the department from releasing the RFPs for abatement?**
- 2. Will the RFPs for abatement be released as a part of the first set of demolitions funded by the bond proceeds?**
- 3. How can the Office of Procurement be included in the process to assist with the development of the RFPs in order to enhance the demolition process?**

ANSWER: The Budget shortfall caused by COVID-19 restricted the Demolition Department to performing only emergency demolitions. The RFP's for Abatement Only was



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intended for use on scheduled demolitions and not emergencies. Those abatement contracts could not be released until there is funding to support Scheduled Demolitions.

Abatement Only packages would be released as a part of the first set of demolitions funded by the bond proceeds.

The Demolition Department and the Office of Procurement work together throughout the entire demolition bidding process. There are defined roles and expectations for each department that must be completed to execute this process. This combined workflow will continue.

QUESTION 3: The current staffing levels of the Demolition department is insufficient to support the proposed annual demolitions.

- 1. How many demolitions does the department plan to execute annually utilizing bond proceeds and CDBG dollars?**
- 2. Will the demolition department staff be increased to support the increased number of demos that will be executed?**

ANSWER: The Demolition Department plans to execute approximately 1,200 to 1,600 demolitions per year.

The Demolition Department's staff will be increased when bond proceeds are available.

QUESTION 4: Your responses stated "Unfortunately, the additional grass cutting planned to start in FY2021 cannot be supported given it is only eligible for General Fund, which has been extremely constrained as a result of COVID-19 related budget cuts."

- 1. How many cuts will be implemented annually? What is the long term plan for grass cutting?**

ANSWER: Grass cutting will continue at 4 cuts a year until the City's budget prospects improve. The City will be implementing the Alley Program which will help with non-structural blight.

cc: Avery Peeples, Mayor's Office
Saskia Thompson, Exec. Director, Detroit Land Bank Authority