



Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones Formal Session Hot Points



On Tuesday, July 28, 2020 the Detroit City Council was in session and discussed several hot topic items.

Tuesday, July 28, 2020 was the last session for the Detroit City Council before they went on their August recess. City Council passed several resolutions calling for action to be taken by the State and other government entities as they continue to fight for the people within our City.

Resolutions

Council President Brenda Jones **sponsored** a resolution **urging Governor Whitmer to Implement Policies Allowing Returning Citizens to Tow State Vehicles**. The Detroit City Council is committed to welcoming returning citizens into the community by implementing ordinances that remove barriers for housing and employment, in an efforts to decrease rates of recidivism:

- In **2010**, the City enacted the “Ban the Box” ordinance, which limits questioning applicants about criminal convictions until after they are determined to be qualified for hiring.
- In **2012**, the City also asked its vendor and contractors to remove the “**Conviction History**” question from job applications; and
- Council Member Ayers, introduced the **Fair Chance Access to Rental Housing Ordinance**, affords citizens with criminal records a fair opportunity to secure housing by regulating the use of criminal background checks as part of the tenant screening process. The ordinance became effective in **July 2019**.

Council President Brenda Jones **joined** a resolution sponsored by Council Member André Spivey calling for the **Restoration of Affirmative Action in Michigan**. Affirmative action is the fair and unbiased extension of all rights and privileges of citizenship and membership in the human family to everyone including:

- The proactive and affirmative engagement with traditionally disfavored groups and individuals to establish work forces;
- Student Bodies;
- Elected Representation; and
- Authority and power structures of all kinds.

The Michigan State Legislature is the primary government body in Michigan that is empowered to place a voter initiative to change the State Constitution on the ballot and that is why the **Detroit City Council strongly urges the State Legislature to place this initiative in restoring affirmative action on the ballot.**

To restore affirmative action, the Michigan State Constitution will need to repeal Article 1, Section 26, and replace it with a robust pro-affirmative action policy authorization.

Continued on Page 2...



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Resolutions Continued...

Council President Jones sponsored a resolution in support of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan, urging Congress to expand support for essential services and non-profits, expand food access, increase funding for 2-1-1 and increase financial stability for households in Michigan.

With thousands of Detroiters unemployed or underemployed, due to COVID-19, individuals and families throughout our community are struggling financially. The Detroit area unemployment rate has increased ten percentage points over the national average. ***In May 2019, the Detroit area unemployment rate was 3.8% and within a year's time, it has climbed to 23.7%.***

Contracts

City Council **approved** [Contract 6002824](#) that provides environmental services for single family rehab program. This contractor will be providing lead and risk assessments, clearance inspections, testing dust for lead contamination, soil sampling for soil contamination, asbestos surveying and clearances, and mold inspections and clearances.

Council President Jones supports the spirit of this contract and the services being provided; however, Council President Jones voted **“no”** on this contract due to the contractors only having a 10% of Detroit Workforce.

Council President Jones continuously works with the Office of Contracting and Procurement, and the Civil Rights, Inclusion, & Opportunity Department on targeted business outreach to bring more City of Detroit businesses to the table with at least a **51% Detroit Resident workforce.**

City Council **approved** [Contract 6002451](#) that provides an increase of funds for **free income tax preparation and counseling services for low income residents of the City of Detroit.** This service will help assist residents in filing their annual tax returns, obtaining stimulus funds, and refunds. This contract is expected to serve up to **3,500 households.**

City Council **approved** [Contract 6002529](#) that provides an increase of funds and an extension of time to expand the **Homelessness Prevention Services to serve residents displaced by COVID-19.**

Community Outreach Ordinance Public Hearing

Council President Brenda Jones' proposed ordinance to amend Chapter 12 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, Community Development, by adding Article 10, Community Outreach, was **approved** for the setting of a public hearing which will be held on **Thursday, September 10, 2020 at 10:05 a.m.**

This ordinance seeks to create a standard community outreach policy within the City of Detroit to last for years to come and withstand any administration or legislative body. This ordinance aims to implement community outreach policies that promote transparency and accountability and ensure community awareness on legislation, contracts, agreements, and resolutions related to the City Wide Proposals and Neighborhood Proposals.



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