



# Here's a Recap of Live From the Table With Council President Brenda Jones



On 07/08/2020

**Palencia Mobley** – Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, Deputy Director and Chief Engineer, mentioned two years ago, a contract was approved to provide capital improvements from a management organization. The goal of this contract was to redesign how they execute a construction project. Through that process, they began to do a neighborhood based approach to evaluate the water and sewer systems.

- Some things that were evaluated were: Leaks, an assessment of the age of the water main, the materials used during construction, flow testing, and how the hydrants were performing. A camera was also used in the sewer to assess and determine what needs to be done in the sewer system. This data was used to determine what needed to be redone or improved.

In 2020, the department has started comprehensive projects in several neighborhoods, meaning there will be sewer, water, and small green storm water infrastructures addressed. Also, they are replacing all lead service lines. **This new approach means there will be less disruption for residents.**

- The largest DWSD project is a green storm water infrastructure on **Oakman Blvd., between Tireman and Joy Rd.**, where plants will essentially soak up the storm water.
  - **These changes won't impact water costs.**

There are smaller city-wide projects that are getting completed every day, so there are no districts that aren't benefitting.

- Door tags are utilized to communicate service interruptions which gives residents the information to connect with someone regarding the project or interruption in case they have any questions or concerns.

- Residents can always call **(313) 267- 8000** for updates, to voice concerns, or to ask questions.

## **GREAT NEWS! DWSD SUPPORTS EMPLOYMENT OF DETROIT RESIDENTS AND DETROIT BASED BUSINESS CONSTRUCTION CONTRACTS**

### **LET'S TALK ABOUT DWSD COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

**Bryan Peckinpugh** – DWSD Deputy Director of Public Affairs, mentioned the last two to three years, they have made significant improvements in community outreach efforts. They have been doing community meetings, as early as 2016, to allow residents to voice their opinions on designs and other input. Here's an update as a result of the meetings:

- DWSD have had contractors attend and share the timeline of construction.
- Before a project starts, they use mailers and door hangers to notify residents. On the back of the door hangers, they now include information regarding what to expect such as tree's being protected, temporary water outages, to name a few.

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Brenda Jones: The Citizens Voice Speaks  
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# WHAT YOU MISSED ON JULY 8, 2020



Continued...

- There is an option to sign up for email updates, or residents can go to their social media. In recent projects, drones have been utilized to video track the progress of projects.
- DWSD have developed relationships with the neighborhood associations, and community block clubs to provide continuous updates throughout DWSD projects to ensure their involvement.

- Providing masks, gloves, and other supplies to both the drivers and passengers.
- **DDOT is in the process of installing driver barriers to the buses for, not only COVID-19 concerns, but also from a safety stand point. The barriers will be a thick glass to help provide safety for the driver.**
- Due to COVID-19 ridership is reduced to 10 passengers per bus.

## DETROIT WELCOMES

**Mikel Oglesby** – Executive Director of Transit

Originally from Florida, Mikel has over 20 years experience in Transit. He was previously employed in Boston before becoming the Executive Director of Transit for Detroit! His father was a bus driver for 34 years. Therefore, he takes his position at DDOT personal, making it his mission to do more for the drivers and passengers.

- Since being in these unprecedented times, Mikel has made various changes to DDOT.

These changes include:

- Buses getting disinfected and cleaned numerous times a day, which is extremely expensive. The cost for this service is roughly \$75,000 a week.
- Implementing social distancing such as 10 passengers per bus
- 10 feet between the driver and the passengers
- Passenger rear entry
- Scheduling changes such as, getting more buses on the busier routes rather than the slower routes

## MIKEL OGLESBY'S LONG TERM GOAL

- Making changes in paratransit by looking at the oversight to demand more from the service providers. He will also review other models from other places throughout the country. He is hopeful to have more dialog with the people who ride the bus providing them the opportunity to voice their opinions, ideas, and wants.



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