On Tuesday, September 22, 2020 the **Detroit City Council was in session and** discussed several hot topic items.



**Brenda Jones** 

## **City Council Supports the CROWN Act Resolution**

On Monday, September 21, 2020 the U.S. House of Representatives passed the CROWN Act. The "Create a Respectful and Open World for Natural Hair"Act, makes it illegal for employers and public schools to discriminate against Black people who choose to wear their hair in its natural state or in a protective style. The Detroit City Council approved the resolution in Support of Adoption of The Crown Act or other Legislation Prohibiting Race-Based Hair Discrimination in the Workplace and at School in Detroit and Michigan.

## **Contracts**

The Detroit City Council approved Contract 6003032 for PIE Management, LLC, a business service provider assists private companies and municipalities with their staffing needs. The contract for \$1,053,600.00 was awarded from

the Department of Elections. They will provide up to 2,000 employees (Detroit Residents) the ability to operate election equipment on Election Day as poll workers under the MiDeal Cooperative Agreement with the State. The youngest staffer that could be eligible for employment must be at least sixteen (16) years of age.

The Detroit City Council approved Contract 6002364 that provides an increase of funds to purchase voter ballot equipment and support services. The approval of this contract allows the Department of Elections to purchase 10 additional Absentee Ballot tabulators for the **General Election in November.** Dominion Voting Systems was awarded this contract for a total contract amount of \$1,836,593.00 which is a contract increase of \$1,041,593.00.

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## Grants

(Continued)

The Detroit City Council approved the donation of assets from various community organizations, foundations, and individuals to the General Services Department, in partnership with the Office of Development and Grants to allow them to improve City-owned public parks and recreation centers. Asset donations include: play-scape improvements, installation of new playground equipment, park benches, picnic tables, art murals or even additions to sports fields and courts. \*\*\*A single donation cannot exceed \$25,000.00 in value. \*\*\*

The Detroit City Council approved the request from the Detroit Health Department in partnership with the Housing and Revitalization and the Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Departments to submit a grant application to the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services for the FY 2020 Coronavirus Task Force on Racial Disparities Rapid Response Initiative Grant. If awarded, the grant would allow the departments to pay for COVID-19 response related administrative, staff salary/fringe, supplies, contracts, marketing/education and tuition expenses. The grant is worth \$1,592,237.00.

The Detroit City Council approved an increase in appropriation from the Federal Transit Administration to the City of Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT), for Section 5307 Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) and Section 5339 Bus Replacement Grant in the amount of \$3,376,500. The required State match for the award, from the Michigan Department of Transportation is for \$844,125.00. The total increase is \$4,220,625.00. The objective of the grant is to replace DDOT buses that have met or surpassed their useful life with new buses for DDOT's fixed route service. The funding will be used to purchase up to twenty new 40-foot buses.

## **Public Hearing**

The Public Hearing for the Community Outreach ordinance has been postponed one week due to a publishing error. The public hearing will now take place on Tuesday, September 29, 2020 at 10:05 a.m.

In addition, the Community Engagement and Outreach resolution that supports the Community Outreach ordinance has also been postponed until Tuesday, September 29, 2020.

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