



# DETROIT CITY COUNCIL FORMAL SESSION HOT POINTS

Tuesday Sept 29, 2020

On Tuesday, September 29, 2020 the Detroit City Council was in session and discussed several hot topic items.



**Council President  
Brenda Jones**

## **Community Outreach Ordinance Unanimously Approved!**

The Community Outreach Ordinance that Council President Jones has worked tirelessly on the Community Outreach Ordinance for months. This would not have been possible without the input of her colleagues, the Administration, Law Department, and her staff. Council President sends a special thank you to the residents who continuously showed up and worked with her to ensure that the Community Outreach Ordinance was beneficial to the community.

This piece of legislation will help keep the community engaged on developments, contracts, and projects that impact their communities before it comes to City Council. By doing this, this will help keep Detroiters informed and create transparency between the community, and the Administration, City Departments, City Council, and all developers.

The ordinance creates various outreach types that allows for outreach flexibility. This allows

outreach to occur in all conditions, including but not limited to staffing and financial restrictions.

### **The different types of outreach are as follows:**

- In-Person Outreach Meeting
- Digital Outreach Meeting
- Digital Surveys
- Digital Comment Process
- Outreach Alert

The Community Advisory Councils and City Council Members representing the impacted neighborhood are crucial to this ordinance because they help spread the word to their community so that they are involved in the process. \*\*\*For more information on how to form a CAC in your district, please read the January 1, 2012, revised Charter of the City of Detroit - Article 9, Chapter 1.\*\*\* Section 9-101, 9-102 and 9-103.

[https://detroitmi.gov/Portals/0/docs/Publications/COD%20Charter/2\\_29\\_2012\\_CharterDocument\\_2\\_1\\_WITHOUT\\_COMMENTARY\\_1.pdf](https://detroitmi.gov/Portals/0/docs/Publications/COD%20Charter/2_29_2012_CharterDocument_2_1_WITHOUT_COMMENTARY_1.pdf)

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Brenda Jones: The Citizen's Voice Speaks



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Just as there are different types of outreaches, there are also different types of proposals that require community outreach, such as:

▪ **City Wide Proposals to include:**

- Mayor's Annual Recommended Budget
- Bond Proposals
- City-Wide Non-motorized Transportation Plan
- City-wide Park Improvement Plan
- Ballot Initiatives (Administration or City Council)

▪ **Class A Neighborhood Proposals to include:**

- Surplus Property Sales (5 contiguous acres)
- Street Scape Projects/Construction Projects
- Camera Surveillance Technology Contracts
- Amendments to the City of Detroit's Master Plan

▪ **Class B Neighborhood Proposals to include:**

- Neighborhood Planning Studies

▪ **Class C Neighborhood Proposals to include:**

- Installation of Bike Lanes

▪ **Class D Neighborhood Proposals to include:**

- Installation of Camera Surveillance Technology
- Installation of Speed Humps

Council President not only created an ordinance but she also created a Community Engagement and Outreach resolution that was unanimously approved by City Council. It seeks to address any policy gaps within the Community Outreach Ordinance due to separation of powers, fiscal and staffing restrictions.

**The resolution urges the Mayor's Office to:**

- If additional financial or staffing resources are developed, an expansion of the current in-person hard copy distribution requirement to a 1,000 foot, hard copy distribution requirement for residents within the impacted neighborhood.
- As staffing and financial resources permit, inclusion of residents from the impacted area at the earliest phases of proposal development.
- Adoption of fair and transparent policies, in consultation with City Council, for identification of impacted neighborhoods, as well as, the time frame for implementing outreach.

**The Mayor's Office agrees to:**

- Outreach meetings will only be held in densely populated areas.
- Creation of a City-Wide Registration Database to receive notification of community outreaches.
- From January 1st through January 31st of each year, the Department of Neighborhoods will launch an annual City-wide campaign to encourage residents, block clubs, and community groups, to register for the database.





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## Enhancement of Enforcement and Oversight in Veterans Homes

The Detroit City Council **approved** the resolution authorizing the **Enhancement of Enforcement and Oversight in Veterans Homes** sponsored by Council President Brenda Jones. City Council urges the Government Accountability Office (GAO) to conduct a more detailed examination of the Veteran Affairs oversight of State Veterans Homes' quality of care and report on any progress on inserting the recommendations from the GAO's July 2019 report.

## Council President Jones Pushes for Detroit Residents to be Protected!

The Detroit City Council **approved** the resolution for the **Neighborhood Improvement Plan Resolution** that ensures that Detroit residents are protected if Proposal N is approved during the November election. The resolution outlines that Detroit residents should not only have jobs, but a path towards career development and living wages. It also guarantees that Detroit small businesses have to access to \$75 million of the funds.

Although Council President Jones was **not in support of Proposal N, Council President still worked with her colleagues and the administration to ensure that Detroit residents, Detroit Jobs and Detroit businesses were prioritized and the tax dollars were invested with residents in mind.** In doing so, she requested that all demolition contractors awarded contracts utilizing NIP Bond Dollars be required to have a Department of Labor Approved Apprentice Program.

## Here are the benefits to this apprenticeship program:

- Increased access to living wages and ensures employees have access to livable wages and job opportunities post the expenditure of demolition bond funds and expiration of the blight remediation program.
- Every 1,000 hours worked ensures increased wages for Detroit residents.
- Contractors will only have to submit the contracts for the Department of Labor approved apprenticeship program.
- Contractors are able to join a union that offers the apprenticeship courses or there are non-union training programs available for those contractors.

## Ruth Ellis Clairmount Center Development

The Detroit City Council **approved** a request from the Ruth Ellis Clairmount Center, is a mixed-use building that has forty-three (43) units, eleven (11) which are one (1) bedroom/one (1) bathroom apartments, and thirty-two (32) are studio apartments. This project will provide affordable permanent housing for homeless or disabled persons, as well as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer youth. The approval now enables them to continue with their development due to the tax exemptions that make their project feasible.

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