



Formal Session Hot Points & Community Updates from Detroit City Council President Brenda Jones



On Tuesday, November 24th, 2020 the Detroit City Council held its last session before beginning its Winter Recess, November 25, 2020 - January 4, 2021. Several hot topics were discussed.

Property Tax Over-Assessment

The Detroit City Council voted to **deny** the Resolution Recognizing Homeowners Affected by Property Tax Over-Assessment from 2010 through 2013. Council President Jones was amongst the hundreds of thousands of Detroiters who were overtaxed and she worked with the administration and offered suggestions to strengthen the proposed resolution.

One proposed method was reflected in a resolution that she sponsored to urge changes in State law to provide a special tax incentive for a specified time frame for residents that were over taxed, a policy that works to give real tax relief to Detroit residents.

While the resolution contains respectable and appreciated efforts toward addressing the egregious over taxation of Detroit residents, the opportunities offered do not go far enough to address all impacted residents and that is why Council President Brenda Jones was not able to support the resolution.

Senate Bill 234 gains Council Support!

The Detroit City Council **approved** a resolution in support of Senate Bill 234 sponsored by State Senator Sylvia Santana that if passed would amend section 8 of 1978 PA 390, the Payment of Wages and Fringe Benefits Act (MCL 408.478), to allow a law enforcement agency under a signed loan forgiveness agreement, entered into on or after the effective date of the amended Act, which would require newly-trained police officers to do one of the following:

- Repay 100% of their academy pay if they leave within one year;
- Repay 75% of their academy pay if they leave within two years;
- Repay 50% of their academy pay if they leave within three years;

- Repay 25% of their academy pay if they leave within four years; or
- Repay 10% of their academy pay if they leave within five years.

Council President sees firsthand the amount of money that the City loses from officers that train with the Detroit Police Department and then leave and work for other departments. This is a huge step towards protecting the City of Detroit's tax dollars.

Recreational Marihuana Ordinance Approved with Strong Equity Standards and Requirements

The Detroit City Council has approved the Recreational Marihuana Ordinance that sets strong social equity standards and requirements that work to combat the impact of the war on drugs in our community. Thank you to my colleague Councilman Tate for your leadership!

Council President Jones requested the following amendments:

- Children of parents that were incarcerated for controlled substances, will have the ability to apply as a Detroit Legacy applicant with a reduced residency timeframe to be considered.
- Inclusion of the following transparency and accountability mechanism: (1) six month report on the application review and approval process. (2) Requirement of ethics training twice a year by members of the Marijuana License Review Committee.
- Requirement of a community outreach report and/or plan with the "Good Neighbor Plan" along with a notification to the Department of Neighborhoods of the Community Outreach. The Department of Neighborhoods is required to email the notice of the community outreach to all residents in the district.

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Council President Brenda Jones



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Council President Jones requested the following amendments (continued) :

Other changes that have been made:

- The Marijuana License Review Committee must develop a standard of review to be approved by the Detroit City Council to ensure consistency and fairness of the process.
- An Addition of the Hiring of at least 30% of full time employees who have a prior controlled substance record to the "Good Neighbor Plan" (Please read the ordinance for an explanation of the "Good Neighbor Plan").
- An Addition of a 2% revenue set aside for investment into youth substance abuse prevention.
- Elimination of the 50% revenue set aside for investment into social equity initiatives replaced by a minimum \$1M investment into social equity initiatives annually.
- Elimination of the continuous Detroit legacy applicant discount replaced by: 1% of the application fee the first year, 25% of the application fee in the second year and full fees for the third year and moving forward. ******A dollar amount has not been set at this time******

For a full view of the Medical Marijuana Facilities and Adult-Use Marijuana Establishments Ordinance, please click on the link below:

Ordinance:

<https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2020-11/Adult-Use%20Marihuana%20Licensing%20Amendment%20to%20Chapter%2020.pdf>

Great News Detroit! City Council Supports All Requests for Proposals (RFPs) Will Now Be Posted in the Michigan

Council President Brenda Jones sponsored a resolution that Requests for Proposals (RFPs) to do business with the City of Detroit be listed in the Michigan Chronicle. Currently, the City of Detroit uses the Detroit Legal News to publish all RFP, public hearing notices, employment advertisements and other important information to the general republic. Council President believes that it is important to expand the reach to ensure that not only are Detroiters being informed but they are given the chance to apply for some of the amazing opportunities the City has to offer.

Supply Schedule Ordinance Streamlines the Procurement Process

Council President Jones sponsored the Supply Schedule Ordinance to ensure that Detroit businesses and residents benefit from the streamlined procurement process.

To date, the City of Detroit has spent **\$8.8M** of the Grounds Maintenance Supply schedule with all Detroit companies with strong Detroit-Resident workforces.

We must continue to ensure that Detroit tax dollars are spent with Detroit businesses that employ Detroit residents. Understanding the need to have snow removal and hauling contractors in place during the season in order to keep City of Detroit streets clear and safe during a snow storm, the following have occurred, is occurring or will occur:

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Supply Schedule Ordinance Streamlines the Procurement Process Continued

- Implementation of a Seven Point Hiring Plan that all three of the snow removal contractors that fell below a 51% Detroit-Resident workforce have signed and agreed to comply with.
- Recruitment of Detroit businesses with a 51% Detroit-Based workforce to be added to the Ground Maintenance Supply Schedule with new companies to be added within the upcoming weeks.

It is Council President Jones' priority to both deliver services and provide Detroit residents and businesses with opportunities through the circulation and investment of City of Detroit tax dollars into the people of Detroit.

She is making strides toward concrete City policies to prioritize Detroit businesses and residents through accountability and accessibility.

Council President Jones is pleased that after a year of advocacy she is seeing the implementation of a Seven Point Hiring Plan Requirement for City of Detroit contractors that do not have a 51% Detroit Resident work-force. Although Council President is excited she also raised some concerns regarding the Seven Point Hiring Plan such as:

- What metrics are in place to ensure contractors implement the Detroit-At-Work Staffing Plan?
- How will contractors be held accountable for working towards a 51% Detroit-Resident workforce?

Council President Jones will continue to work with the Office of Contracting and Procurement and the Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Department to ensure that the Seven Point Hiring Plan Requiring is developed and implemented successfully.

Council President Brenda Jones voted "no" to approve the following contracts:

- American Trailer Mart, located in Waterford, Michigan and was approved for a \$384,004.00 contract from the City.
- Jefferson Chevrolet Co, located in Detroit and was approved for a contract increase of a \$2M contract from the City.

Collectively, the contracts totaled \$2.4M and only created ten (10) jobs with only one (1) of the positions being filled by a Detroit resident. That equates to a 10% Detroit-Resident Workforce utilizing over \$2M in tax payers dollars.

Council President Jones will continue to be committed to ensuring that Detroit residents have access to employment opportunities on City of Detroit contracts. Council President continuously advocates for contractors to have at least a 51% Detroit workforce and will continue to vote no on contracts that do not uphold this standard.

Council President Jones is currently drafting legislation to address Target Business and Employment to increase accountability for City departments, agencies and contractors.

PLEASE SAVE THE 2021 DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR ON THE NEXT PAGE

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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL CALENDAR 2021



JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL	MAY	JUNE
1 NEW YEARS DAY 1-4 RECESS 18 MARTIN LUTHER KING DAY 19 Evening Community Meeting – District 4	1 CDBG/NOF Deliberations 8 CDBG/NOF OVERVIEW 10-12 CDBG/NOF Deliberations 16 City Council vote on CDBG/NOF 16 Evening Community Meeting – District 2	5 Mayor’s Budget Address 8-31 City Council Budget Hearings 16 Evening Community Meeting – At-Large	1-6 City Council Budget Hearings 2 GOOD FRIDAY 5 Public Hearing—Budget 7 City Council Vote on Budget 13 Mayor’s Veto, if applicable 16 City Council Veto Override, if applicable 19–26 RECESS	18 Evening Community Meeting – District 6 31 MEMORIAL DAY	15 Evening Community Meeting – District 3 TBD FORD Fireworks
JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
4 INDEPENDENCE DAY 28-31 RECESS	1-31 RECESS	1-3 RECESS 6 LABOR DAY 20-23 Mackinac Policy Conference 27 Evening Community Meeting – District 5 TBD Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conf.	19 Evening Community Meeting – District 1 TBD Community Budget Informational Conf.	11 VETERAN’S DAY 16 Evening Community Meeting – District 7 24-30 RECESS 25 THANKSGIVING DAY 26 DAY AFTER THANKSGIVING	1-31 RECESS (until Jan 3rd) 24 CHRISTMAS EVE 27 CITY’S CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY OBSERVANCE TBD CAYMC CLOSED 31 NEW YEAR’S EVE