



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



On Tuesday, February 16, 2021 the Detroit City Council was in session and discussed several hot topics items



The Privilege on the Law Department's memorandum dated February 8, 2021, entitled "City Council's ability to delay voting on city contracts until the CPO complies with legislatively imposed directives, and the Law Department's memorandum dated February 10, 2021, entitled Council President Jones' Communication on February 8 Opinion" has been removed.

Both points are disappointing and disheartening. The department is fully capable to collect the data at no cost to the City nor the contractor as a result of the digital collection method that has been created in collaboration with my office. Until recently, this has been utilized for over a year. The department independently decided to insert the information into the bid. Therefore, failure to collect the information is a CHOICE and not prohibited as a result of an unlawful directive or a mandate.

Here's The Conclusion of the Report:

- City Council's asking employment questions is interpreted as a directive. This is stated because the questions related to employment are asked after the contracts have been bid. City Council is not able to interfere with the bid of city contracts so we are only able to ask questions once the contracts are submitted. The right to ask questions is our legislative duty.
- There is no law in place requiring the Office of Procurement or the Contractor to divulge employment information, thus the department does not have to collect this information from the contractors nor provide the information to the body.



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The department has full capability to collect the information and is choosing not to collect the information. It was not until the information resulted in City Council rejecting contracts as a result of a lack of focus on the hiring and recruitment of Detroiters and businesses that the Administration began taking steps to control the vote of the Detroit City Council. It is unacceptable and a threat to transparency and to our city government. **I am extremely disappointed in the Office of Contracting & Procurement and the Corporation Counsel in their actions taken in this matter.**

Just because something is not required by law, doesn't mean it isn't the right thing to do. It is not required by law, but it most certainly is the right thing to do for the City to ensure that all necessary steps have been taken to hire Detroiters on contracts. And the Office of Contracting & Procurement nor the Mayor's Office should need a law to ensure that Detroiters are a priority.

I urge the department to continue collecting employment information from ALL those that intend to contract with the City of Detroit and report that information because we deserve to KNOW how our tax dollars are being spent and to hold contractors accountable.

It is my responsibility to review the contracts submitted for approval and I will not be pressured to stop asking the tough questions, holding the departments and contractors accountable and doing what is best for you!



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If I am dissatisfied with how Detroiters are informed and considered for employment on contracts using their tax dollars, I will vote no!

Therefore, I will be voting NO on all contracts where answers to my questions remain outstanding. I will not be controlled nor intimidated while serving the residents of the city of Detroit who have elected me to represent their interests.

Thank you to my colleagues for supporting and defending our legislative duties.
Please be sure to review and read the report in detail.

I voted **NO** to approve Contract 3047938 where concerns regarding Detroit residency within the company were not addressed. **The Administration was prepared to give away \$403,916.16 to a company based in Clawson, Michigan without evaluating steps taken to prioritize Detroit residents for employment. The Detroit City Council said NO! These are also CARES ACT DOLLARS so Detroiters MUST be prioritized.**

Additionally, the Council voted to postpone the following contracts due to their inability to provide Council President with responses regarding employment:

- **Contract 6003222** to provide design and engineering services for Southfield Smoke Stack. The contractor is Beam, Longest and Neff, LLC based out of Wixom, Michigan for a total contract amount of **\$40,000.00.**
- **Contract 3046623** to provide 500 bike lane delineator posts with retro reflective sheeting and related materials. The contractor is AVE Solutions based out of Detroit for a total contract amount of **\$34,520.00.**



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SOUTHWEST COMMUNITIES WINS BATTLE FOR ECONOMIC JUSTICE!

Option A or Option B? The big question that has surrounded City Council and the community for weeks on the outcome of the **rezoning of Toledo Street Corridor and Clark Park**. The residents came out in waves of support for Option A allowing for the properties to be rezoned from M4 (Intensive Industrial) to M1 (Limited Industrial). The downzoning to a M1 provides a buffer between residential districts and intensive industrial districts. By approving this option, the City Council is protecting the environment and the health of the people in the community.

On **Monday, February 8, 2021**, the City Council held an Appeals Hearing for the 2021 – 2022 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Neighborhood Opportunity Fund (NOF) Public Services. **There were 8 organizations that submitted appeals but were not recommended for funding to do either a low score or for not meeting threshold.**

City Council was able to accept the recommendations of 36 other organizations to receive over \$2.6M in CDBG and NOF Public Service Funds for the 2021 – 2022 year in various categories such as education, health, seniors, recreation, and public safety.

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| 1. Jefferson East, Inc. | 15. Focus: HOPE | 28. Mosaic Youth Theater |
| 2. Neighborhood Legal Services (Wayne County) | 16. Center for Employment Opportunities | 29. Cody Rouge Community Action Alliance |
| 3. St. Patrick Senior Center | 17. The Greening of Detroit | 30. Heritage Works |
| 4. Bridging Communities, Inc. | 18. Southwest Economic Solution Corporation | 31. Southwest Detroit Business Association (SDBA) |
| 5. Matrix Human Services | 19. YMCA of Metro Detroit | 32. Project Health Community |
| 6. Luella Hannan Memorial | 20. The Youth Connection | 33. World Medical Relief |
| 7. Latin Americans for Social and Economic Development (LASED) | 21. Mercy Education Project | 34. My Community Dental Center |
| 8. L&L Adult Day Care | 22. Urban Neighborhood Initiative | 35. Joy-Southfield CDC |
| 9. Delray United Action Council | 23. Fair Housing Center of Metropolitan Detroit | 36. Neighborhood Service Organization |
| 10. Accounting Aid Society | 24. Detroit Area Pre-College Engineering Program (DAPCEP) | |
| 11. Dominican Literacy | 25. Coleman A. Young Foundation | |
| 12. The International Institute of Metropolitan Detroit | 26. Clark Park Coalition | |
| 13. Wellspring | 27. Teen Hype Youth Development | |
| 14. Siena Literacy Center | | |



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CARES ACT DOLLARS FOR EVICTION AND HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR DETROITERS

The Detroit City approved two contracts worth \$300,000 to provide Covid-19 Emergency Housing and Financial Services for Low/Moderate Residents Facing Foreclosure or Eviction. **The contracts were awarded to Bridging Communities and Central Detroit Christian.** Detroiters in need should reach out to one of these groups. **If you have questions, concerns or issues please email wesleyl@detroitmi.gov**

PROPERTY SALES APPROVED DURING THE FEBRUARY 16, 2021 DETROIT CITY COUNCIL FORMAL SESSION

The properties at **5703, 5707, 5715 Trumbull and 1510 Stanley** were approved for sale to **5757 Trumbull Detroit Partners LLC**, a Michigan Limited Liability Corporation for **\$72,000**. The purchaser proposes to continue the current approved use of the Property as greenspace and parking.

The property at **18291 Livernois** was approved for sale to **Monique Moore** for **\$30,000**. The property consists of a small commercial building situated on approximately **1500 square feet of land**. The purchaser proposes to renovate the Property for use as a retail clothing shop.



If you are interested in purchasing residential property, visit:

www.Buildingdetroit.org

If you are interested in purchasing commercial property, visit:

www.summitcommercialllc.catylist.com



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The District Business Liaisons' contact information has been included below for your convenience.

TENECIA JOHNSON District 1 Business Liaison tjohnson@degc.org 313.460.0775
LASHAWNA MANIGAULT District 2 Business Liaison lmanigault@degc.org 313.657.8495
MD-ABDUL MUHIT District 3 Business Liaison mmuhit@degc.org 313.452.7704
MARTELL BIVINGS District 4 Business Liaison mbivings@degc.org 313.510.5288
MIKKI GODFREY District 5 Business Liaison mgodfrey@degc.org 313.452.1926
MICHAEL REYES District 6 Business Liaison reyespoetry@gmail.com 313.510.2488
BRIANNA WALKER District 7 Business Liaison bwalker@degc.org 313.515.6979

If you would like to access any documents please email duncanr@detroitmi.gov. Please allow 48 hours for receipt of the documents.

Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events



<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/93936022071>

Watch the Formal Session Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=75mBCSIIgk0&feature=youtu.be>



Brenda Jones: The Citizens Voice Speaks
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