



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



On Tuesday, February 2, 2021 the Detroit City Council was in session and discussed several hot topics items



## Overview of Detroit Public Community District

Dr. Nikolai Vitti, the Superintendent of the Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD), gave an update before City Council today.

Since the start of school, through Grab & Go and in-person learning, DPSCD has served over 1.1M meals to their students. The Detroit Public Schools Community District supports students and families through the following:

- Homework Hotline Available **4 Days Per Week**
- Mental Health Support Hotline **4 Days Per Week**
- 13 Technology & Family Support Hubs Open Since **December 1, 2021**

DPSCD also supported their teachers and staff through the following:

- Held 500 personal development trainings **100% virtual** during the Fall that included **35,000** individual registrations and **2,500+** course completions for Schoology

## Resources for Students and Families

Families can access in-person technical and online learning support, digital literacy training, Grab & Go meals, community resources & more. Please visit for more information:

<https://www.detroitk12.org/hubs>

## Continued...

DPSCD, along with the DTE Energy Foundation, Quicken Loans Community Fund, Skillman Foundation, Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation, General Motors and the Kellogg Foundation are working together to address the digital divide and have distributed 44,641 devices. They have provided 6,460 loaner laptops and 1,655 hot spots.

Learning Centers will reopen February 24, 2020 as long as positive infection rates remain near 5% or lower. The staff will be required to submit proof of a negative COVID test before returning to District locations. Additionally, 60% of staff have elected to receive the vaccine although it is not required.

In order to return to in-person learning in March, the positivity rate must fall solidly below the 5% mark.

City-wide (DPSCD and charter schools) 2,700+ teachers and school support staff have received the first vaccine dosage.

DPSCD has made short and long-term commitments to make up for the losses students have endured during this time such as:

- Adjusting online learning, grading and assignments to assist families and students
- Expanding summer school and after school programming and offering classes over breaks through employees and partners.
- Extending mental health support for families, students, and employees.
- Continuing to provide devices and internet access to families, while advocating through the state to allow and fully fund online learning next school year.



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



On Tuesday, February 2, 2021 the Detroit City Council was in session and discussed several hot topics items

## The Mayor's Office has requested that the following contracts be postponed:

- **Contract 6002853** is set to provide an extension of time and an increase of funds for **COVID-19 disaster costs recovery services and to expand the scope to include vaccine distribution and vaccine cost management services.** The contract increase was for **\$955,350.00** bringing the total contract amount to **\$2,188,950.00.**  
**Guidehouse, LLP** is the contractor and is located out of McLean, Virginia.
- **Contract 2919769** is set to provide an extension of time only to maintain citywide collection services per the direction of the **City of Detroit's Law Department for transition.** This was only for an extension of time and no additional funds were requested. The **contract is Roosen, Varchetti & Olivier, PLLC** and the company is headquartered out of Clinton Township, Michigan.
- **Contract 6003049** is set to provide an increase of funds only for as-needed General Contracting Services providing capital services such as mechanical system repairs and improvements for various types of mechanical systems. The contract increase is **\$1,000,000.00** bringing the total contract amount to **\$2,200,000.00.** The contractor **Gandol, Inc.** is located out of the Northwest Activity Center.
- **Contract 6003050** provides an extension of time and an increase of funds for as-needed General Contracting Services, performing capital improvements for various City Buildings. The contract increase is for **\$1,000,000.00** bringing the total amount to **\$2,200,000.00.** This is a joint venture between **W-3 Construction** based out of Detroit and **J.J. Barney** based out of Rochester Hills, Michigan.
- **Contract 6001548** is set to provide an extension of time and an increase of funds for facilities related to capital improvements and services at all **Detroit Water and Sewerage Department** locations. The contract increase is for **\$9,000,000.00** bringing the total contract amount to

Since 2019, Council President Jones has been conducting legislative review over City of Detroit contracts in order to evaluate how Detroit business and residents are prioritized for jobs and opportunities. All contracts that are submitted for legislative review are subject to the same review questions.

Responses for several contracts have been received. For other contracts, it has been requested to postpone the vote prior to responding to questions to allow the Law Department to respond if the Mayor's Office is legally allowed to provide responses to:

- **Number of employees**
- **Job Titles**
- **Number of Detroiters employed**
- **Detroit Job Titles**
- **Future Hiring Plans**
- **Steps taken to work with Detroit-At-Work to recruit and interview Detroiters**

Until today, there have been no legal issues with receiving responses to questions and concerns.





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



On Tuesday, February 2, 2021 the Detroit City Council was in session and discussed several hot topics items

## Continued...

Council President Jones is hopeful that the Mayor's Office will continue to provide responses to questions and concerns to ensure transparency for the Detroit City Council and Detroit residents on how Detroit dollars are spent.

Council President Jones voted **NO** on the below contracts:

- **Contract 6003177** provides an emergency air quality survey for the future Amazon site. The total contract amount is \$164,000.00 and the contractor is NTH Consultants Ltd. This contractor has offices in Northville, Lansing, Grand Rapids, Livonia, and Detroit. **The contractor has 115 employees and only 10 of them are Detroiters.** No efforts have been taken to work with Detroit-At-Work to hire Detroiters.
- **Contract 6001323** provides an extension of time only to perform construction and inspection services, quality assurance and material testing services for various federal, state, and locally funded road improvements for City projects on an as-needed basis. **The total contract amount is \$5,165,985.36 and the contractor is Hubbell, Roth & Clark, Inc.** They are headquartered out of Bloomfield Hills, Michigan and have hired employees from Lake Orion, St. Clair Shores, Grand Rapids, Freeport, Belding, Madison Heights and Waterford within the last 6 months but have not made any attempts to work with Detroit-At-Work to recruit and hire Detroiters for employment on this contract.

Council President Jones commends Michigan Recreational Construction for being accountable and working to implement target hiring outreach for their company by working with Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation and participating in the 3rd Annual Detroit Construction Conference. They were awarded a \$262,130.00 contract to provide construction services for 4th and Calumet Park.

On Contract 3047533, City Council approved a contract for Jhoman, LLC, dba Lagarda Security based out of Burton, Michigan. This contractor has a 100% Detroit Resident workforce for all of their security guard positions. The contract was to provide past due invoice payments for security services at Detroit Police Department Tow yards for \$70,848.75.

City Council approved the property sales of 2946 Livernois for a purchase price of \$5,050.00 and 8475 Dearborn Street for a purchase price of \$19,300.00. **Council President Jones raised concerns at the table inquiring about how the City can be certain that sales prices are reflective of the actual worth of the properties.**

During formal session, the Detroit Building Authority stated that price recommendations, derived from utilizing sales comparable in the area, prepared by Summit Commercial LLC, the brokerage firm contracted through the Detroit Building Authority. The Housing and Revitalization Department reviews the pricing recommendations made which is inclusive of any additional adjustments and that is what establishes the value of the property.



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



On Tuesday, February 2, 2021 the Detroit City Council was in session and discussed several hot topics items

## Green Task Force Works to Amend Chapter 42 of the 2019 Detroit City Code Solid Water and Illegal Dumping

Due to the great work of Council Member Scott Benson, who chairs the City's Green Task Force, City Council approved a proposed Ordinance to amend Chapter 42 of the 2019 Detroit City Code Solid Water and Illegal Dumping for the introduction and setting of a public hearing. The ordinance sets out to provide a sanitary and efficient method of preparation, storage, collection, transport, disposal of municipal recyclable materials. This will aid City Council in the mitigation of poor air and water quality while supports the goals of the adopted Sustainability Action Agenda.

## Good News in District 2!

City Council voted to amend Chapter 21, Article 2 of the 2019 Detroit City Code by adding Section 21-2-246 establishing the **William E. Higginbotham School Historic District!**

*Congratulations to Dwight Smith and Russell Baltimore on their appointment as ad hocs representing the community interest.*

Council also approved an amendment adding Section 21-2-247 to Chapter 21 by establishing the **Johnson Recreation Center and Joe Louis Playfield Historic District.** *Congratulations to Reverend Theodore G. Munz, Hazel Fludd and Theresa J. Moon on their appointment as the ad hoc members representing the community.*

## Residential Owner-Occupied Real Property by Reason of Poverty

On December 23, 2020, Governor Gretchen Whitmer signed into law Public Act 253 of 2020 amending MCL 211.7u. This statute addresses the exemption of residential owner-occupied real property by reason of poverty.

The Detroit City Council passed a **resolution** that grants authority to the Office of the Assessor to allow the principal residence of a person who has reason of poverty and were eligible for the tax exemption in 2019, 2020, or both to remain exempt through 2021. This will also help homeowners who are at risk of foreclosure and give them the opportunity to participate in the **"Pay As You Stay Program."**

**For more information on the Home Owners Property Tax Assistance Program (HPTAP), please visit**

<https://detroitmi.gov/government/boards/property-assessment-board-review/homeowners-property-tax-assistance-program-hptap>

## Grant Approved From The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services

City Council approved a grant from the **Michigan Department of Health and Human Services** to the City of Detroit Health Department for the FY 2021 COVID Immunizations Grant for a total of **\$663,708.00**. *This grant will be utilized to pay for staffing, communications, and supplies to support COVID-19 vaccination events, including PPE, vaccine refrigerators, data loggers, vaccine coolers, and indirect costs for COVID-19 related work.*



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



On Tuesday, February 2, 2021 the Detroit City Council was in session and discussed several hot topics items

## Mark Your Calendars for These Upcoming Events

**THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRENDA JONES CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH – FEBRUARY 2021**

**SPECIAL DIGITAL PROGRAMMING FEATURING REFLECTIONS & CONVERSATIONS ON BEING BLACK IN AMERICA**

**Wednesday February 3rd @2pm**  
Live From the Table - Detroit Contracts for Detroit Businesses

**Tuesday February 9th @3pm**  
MVATF - Black Veterans... Their Service & Sacrifice

**Thursday February 11th @3pm**  
Arts, Culture and Entertainment -- Black Creativity

**Tuesday February 16th @6pm**  
Suit Talk - Black Leadership & Legacies

**Wednesday February 17th @6pm**  
Black Women in the Boardroom - Making It Happen!

**Thursday February 18th @4pm**  
Youth Voices - Blacks in Skilled Trades

**Monday February 22nd @6pm**  
Community Conversation - Back in the Bay - Black in Detroit

**Tuesday February 23rd @6pm**  
Suit Talk - Black Leadership & Legacies

**Thursday February 25th @6pm**  
Black Businesses, Black Dollars - Increasing the Flow!

**Friday February 26th @10am**  
Coffee & Conversation - Black Economic Equity

**All Programming Can Be Viewed at**  
<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/93936022071>  
or **LIVE BRENDAJONES**

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

**DETROIT CITY COUNCIL**

**DIGITAL MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS TASK FORCE 2021 MEETINGS**

**DATE: TUESDAY, FEB. 9TH, 2021**  
**FROM: 5:00 PM - 6:00 PM**  
**DIAL IN: (313) 626-6799**  
**MEETING ID: 883 8788 9786**  
Or  
Click on the link to join  
<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/88387889786>

**PLEASE TELL A VETERAN TO JOIN US!**

**Council President**  
Brenda Jones, Chair

**Councilmember**  
Scott Benson, Co-Chair

**Councilmember**  
Roy McCallister, Co-Chair

**IF YOU NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:**  
Council President Brenda Jones's Office: (313) 224-1245 or [WesleyL@detroitmi.gov](mailto:WesleyL@detroitmi.gov)  
Councilmember Benson's Office: (313) 224-1198 or [BensonS@detroitmi.gov](mailto:BensonS@detroitmi.gov)  
Councilmember McCallister's Office: (313) 224-4525 or [councilmemberMcCallister@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmemberMcCallister@detroitmi.gov)

**PUT THIS ON YOUR CALENDAR!**

<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/s/88387889786>

**Neighborhood Enterprise Zone**  
**Homestead (NEZ-H) Community Meeting**

The Detroit City Council invites you to a meeting regarding changes to the Neighborhood Enterprise Zone - Homestead (NEZ-H) areas in Detroit. These are the first changes to the existing NEZ-H areas since 2006 and the purpose is to increase the number of Detroiters who are eligible for the NEZ-H tax abatement.

**FEB. 3 & FEB 10 AT 6 - 7:30 P.M.**

**1 Join via Zoom**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81764729476>

**2 Join via Facebook**  
Find us on Facebook @CityOfDetroit

If you qualify, this abatement will reduce your summer tax bill from 15 to 20 percent and the abatement lasts for 15 years. It works by cutting the Detroit General Operating Millage and the Wayne County General Operating Millage by half. All other millages remain at their existing rate. To qualify for this abatement, you must meet the following requirements:

- You must have purchased your home after December 31, 1996.
- You must own and occupy your home as your primary residence (the deed must be in your name and you have a Principal Residence Exemption (PRE) on file with the City of Detroit).
- You must commit to \$500 in repairs/improvements to your home over a two-year period.

All eligible homeowners will receive an application in the mail once Detroit City Council makes the final determinations as to where the new NEZ-H areas are located.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81764729476>

**CITY OF DETROIT**

**Notice of Public Outreach**

You are invited to give input on the following proposal.

**PROPOSAL**  
**Master Plan Amendment and Sale of The Brodhead Armory**

**OUTREACH DETAILS**  
<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/2568030763>  
ZOOM Meeting ID #: 256 803 0763  
Tuesday, January 26th 2021 - 5:30pm or February 16th, 2021 - 5:30pm  
Conference Call Number: +1 313-626-6799

**ADMINISTRATIVE SUMMARY**  
The proposed master plan amendment is being requested to allow for the adaptive reuse of the Brodhead Armory Building. The Parade Company is proposing a minimum 30-million dollar investment to reuse the northern portion of the property located at 7650 a/k/a 7600 E. Jefferson (The Brodhead Armory) for a nonprofit neighborhood center and construct a two-story building which would replace the structurally damaged southern portion of the building to be used for the storage and construction of parade floats. The master plan amendment is expected to go to City Council in March 2021 for review and consideration.

This meeting is intended for residents that live near the Brodhead Armory. While other district residents' input is welcome, the meeting is intended to focus on the immediately impacted neighbors.

**ONLINE FEEDBACK**  
For more information, contact Amanda Elias, Senior Advisor - Jobs and Economy, at [aelias@detriormi.gov](mailto:aelias@detriormi.gov)

<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/2568030763>

Watch the Formal Session Here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nsPI8jC9BCE&feature=youtu.be>

Catch the News on "Speed Humps"  
Click on the video links below:

<https://youtu.be/1nivpggSmYU>

<https://youtu.be/5kmsnTFH8SI>



Brenda Jones: The Citizens Voice Speaks  
[www.facebook.com/CPBrendaJones](http://www.facebook.com/CPBrendaJones)



@iam\_brendajones



OFFICE PHONE: 313-224-1245



@iam\_brendajones



Council President Brenda Jones



EMAIL: [bjones\\_mb@detroitmi.gov](mailto:bjones_mb@detroitmi.gov)