



## City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

**MARY SHEFFIELD**  
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
DISTRICT 5

# MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Ron Brundidge, Director, Department of Public Works  
**FROM:** Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council  
**DATE:** May 19, 2022  
**RE:** GFL Trash Collection Concerns

It has recently been brought to my attention an ongoing issue with hydraulic fluid leaking from GFL trucks in the Greater Villages and Pingree Park neighborhoods, and also Citywide concerns over incomplete and inconsistent trash pick up. According to Municipal Code Sec. 42-2-185, there is a prohibition against leakage from trucks, and it requires the owner to “clean the affected road within one hour.” Please respond to the following questions regarding GFL:

- How many resident complaints has DPW or GFL received regarding the leaking of fluid or debris?
- How many complaints has the department received for no or incomplete trash collection?
- What is the enforcement mechanism for trash collection trucks that leave behind debris or materials in the road?
- Is GFL or DPW responsible for the cleaning up of debris or materials left from residential trash collection?
- Has the department issued any fines/penalties against GFL in 2022 for violations of their contract with the City?
- What City department monitors residential trash collection and how are violations tracked and enforced?
- The current contract with GFL outlines penalties for what is termed “failure to perform,” which includes failure to collect trash within one business day and failure to maintain sanitary and safe vehicles. Has the City been enforcing these violations? What penalties has the City levied against GFL?

Please contact Ari Ruttenberg from my office at [ruttenberga@detroitmi.gov](mailto:ruttenberga@detroitmi.gov) if you have any questions.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues  
City Clerk