



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conrad Mallett, Jr., Corporation Counsel, Law Department

THROUGH: Council Member Latisha Johnson, Chair, Internal Operations Standing Committee

FROM: Council President Mary Sheffield

DATE: October 4, 2022

RE: **Request for the Law Department and Administration to Provide an Update on the Implementation and Funding of the Right to Counsel Ordinance**

This memorandum is an official request of the Law Department and the Administration to provide an update on the implementation of the Right to Counsel Ordinance. The ordinance called for the Office of Eviction Defense to be staffed and begin servicing low-income Detroiters facing eviction by October 1, 2022. Members of the Right to Counsel Coalition, the public and I are concerned about the residents facing eviction and urge the Administration to “stand up” this program as soon as possible.

Additionally, in recent meetings it has been stated that the Administration is planning on allocating \$2 million per year for the implementation of the Right to Counsel which is contrary to the agreement reached by Council and the Administration during the last budget cycle. The closing resolution states that Council urges the Administration to fund the ordinance at \$6 million each year for the next three years and Council was told the first year would be funded at \$6 million and subsequent years would be funded after assessing the need once the program started. Lastly, City Council passed a resolution calling on the administration to fully fund the Right Counsel Ordinance by allocating an additional \$12 million in ARPA funding for this purpose. I am requesting a status update on the funding for the Right to Counsel Ordinance and the Administration’s official position on the additional funding for the program.

cc: Honorable Colleagues
Jay Rising, Chief Financial Officer
Steve Watson, Budget Director
Hon. Janice Winfrey, Detroit City Clerk