



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Miriam Blanks-Smart, Ex. Director, Department of Appeals & Hearings
FROM: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
DATE: March 16, 2023
RE: Department of Appeals & Hearings (DAH), Budget Hearing Questions, Fiscal Year 2023/2024

SUMMARY:

1. How many hearings does the department conduct annually? The goal of the department is to conduct \$60,000 per year between July 2023 and June 2024. What does the department plan to do to achieve this goal?
2. What practices does the department take to ensure that property in Detroit is maintained free of blight?
3. What educational and informational programs does DAH provide to residents that informs them of your services regarding blight tickets, refund eligibility, compliance requirements and DAH digital court?
4. Does the department have any staff vacancies?
5. There is a \$35,654 increase in salaries and wages between FY 2023 and FY 2024. However, we see a \$15,280 decrease in employee benefits in that same timeframe. What is the reason for inverse relationship?
6. What programs or initiatives does DAH provide/plan to provide that supports citizens' ability to appeal certain administrative decisions made by other departments?

Please contact Caryn Shannon from my office at caryn.shannon@detroitmi.gov if you have any questions.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues
City Clerk