



March 9, 2023

TO: Councilmember Angela Whitfield-Calloway

THRU: Council President Mary Sheffield

FROM: Beau Taylor, Executive Director
Public Lighting Authority

RE: PLA Response to FY 2023/2024 Budget Hearing Questions

The Public Lighting Authority submits the following response to Councilmember Whitfield-Calloway's FY 2023/2024 Budget Questions:

- 1. QUESTION: During the recent winter storms, many contractors for the Detroit Public Lighting Department (PLD) and Detroit Public Lighting Authority (PLA) were released from municipal job assignments to clear storm damage. Did these crews go to outstate locations like Livingston County or did these crews stay within the Detroit city limits to restore service to Detroit residents? In the future, can PLD and PLA direct DTE Energy to use these crews to prioritize the restoration of power to Detroit residents?**

Under Mutual Aid, crews are released during extreme weather events to aid in restoration of power. We do not know exactly where our crews are deployed, as they become part of a large operation that we do not run. Logistically, it's hard to imagine them deployed far from their home bases here in Detroit, but we are not involved in the power restoration priority process.

- 2. QUESTION: Can PLD and PLA crews be trained to handle high power lines to help restore power to Detroit residents after storms? What would be the cost of such a re-training program? Does PLD have a crew left to handle storm damage? Does PLA have crews available to handle storm damage?**

Some of our crews are trained to deal with high voltage power lines, and some are trained to deal with lower voltage. It would be a new apprenticeship program to bring all to high power proficiency. Crews do help to restore power after storms, under Mutual Aid to DTE who owns the power distribution system. As power is restored, crews handle any damage to the streetlight system.