



City of Detroit  
Detroit City Council  
Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway  
District 2

## MEMORANDUM

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TO: James White, Chief of Police  
Police Department

FROM: Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway *AWC*

DATE: March 20, 2023

RE: 2023-2024 Police Department Budget Questions

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The office of Council Member Angela Calloway respectfully submits the following questions to the Police Department as a part of the 2023-2024 budget hearing process.

- QUESTION:** In 2022, the Detroit Police Department requested a contract with SHOTSPOTTER. The original request had funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) in the amount of \$7.5 Million but later the funding source was changed to general funds coming from the Detroit Police Department budget. How was the Detroit Police Department able to fund this amount through its general funds budget? How will the Detroit Police Department fund SHOTSPOTTER in the budget starting on July 1, 2023?
- QUESTION:** The Detroit Police Department has approximately 388 vacancies. Even if the Detroit Police Department made major advancements in recruiting, training and hiring, there will still be approximately 200 vacant positions throughout the budget year. Why should the Detroit Police Department carry these vacancies throughout the next budget year while there are other priorities that could better use the funds incumbered by these vacant positions?
- QUESTION:** What is the full cost per entry level police officer? Would \$100,000 per officer be a rough cost figure?
- QUESTION:** What is the authority for the Detroit Police Department to automatically use the surplus created by the large number of vacancies to fund over-time for police officers? If City Council prohibited this automatic authorization of over-time, what would be the effect on the Detroit Police Department services?
- QUESTION:** If City Council eliminated 200 officer positions in the budget starting July 1, 2023, and used the freed funds to allow for a 1 Mill decrease in property taxes (a \$7.5 Million reduction in revenue) what would be the effect on Detroit Police Department services since there is little possibility of these positions being filled?



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6. **QUESTION:** Why is the Detroit Police Department allowed to budget for positions that are clearly not being filled in the budget year? For the fiscal year ending on June 30, 2022, what was the number of vacancies and what was the dollar amount unspent due to the vacancies?
7. **QUESTION:** What training is offered to police officers concerning general driving techniques? Would this be a prudent risk management tool?