

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Beau Taylor, Executive Director, Detroit Public Lighting Authority

FROM: City Council President Mary Sheffield

DATE: March 24, 2023

RE: Public Lighting Authority Budget Questions FY23-24

1. Many residents have urged the City to install brighter lights in their neighborhoods. Please share any forthcoming plans to increase neighborhood lighting.
2. Alley Lighting is also a common concern of our resident. Over the past decade the Public Lighting Authority decommissioned over 10,000 alley lights with no plan for new alley light to be installed. Instead, residents were offered a low-cost replacement outdoor protective light from DTE.
 - i. What resident feedback, if any, has the PLA received since this change? My office receives a regular stream of calls from residents who desperately desire alley lighting.
 - ii. Is there a possibility to reinstall lights in public alleys? What would this process look like?
 - iii. Which neighborhoods does the department agree that alley lighting is needed for? What is the cost
3. Throughout the city, there are many scarcely lit streets. What is the cost per streetlight? This includes the cost of moving a mid-block light. How many people have called in requesting additional light? How are these requests formally handled? How many of these requests have the department evaluated and agreed that more lighting is needed?

4. In the budget hearing it was stated that in order to add additional lighting in alleys or street blocks, the lighting plan would have to be altered through a legislative process. What does this process look like? Is the lighting plan established at the local or state level?
5. Because public lighting is essential to public health and safety, could ARPA funds be used to provide more alley and block lighting? Please share any information that the department has about the possibility to use ARPA funding to increase public lighting.
6. Does the Public Lighting Authority participate in any community engagement or outreach activities? How much is allocated in your budget for outreach?
7. Please provide an itemized budget for FY23 and FY24. Budget should show all other income streams and clearly define “other income” and “other expenses.”
8. Recently, the Public Lighting Authority launched the Public Lighting Authority Nurturing Talent (PLANT) Program. This program is designed to encourage contractors to hire Detroit residents and train those residents for future careers in skilled trades. Please share a performance report on this program including how the program has impacted employment demographics here in Detroit.
9. Please share an employment breakdown for the Public Lighting Authority. This should include how many employees you have in each position, and what percentage of each position staffed is comprised of Detroit residents. This should include all employees, include leadership.
10. This February marked ten years since the establishment of the Public Lighting Authority. Looking ten years out, what can the City expect from PLA over the next decade?