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March 23, 2023

Honorable City Council:

Re: Budget Questions – Council President Sheffield

In response to questions received from City Council President Sheffield, the Department of Public Works (DPW) provides the following responses:

- 1. *Our office has received complaints regarding the lack of garbage collection. What is the department's plan to ensure that garbage collection is consistent and how does the department plan to hold garbage contractors accountable?***
 - a. *Due to the number of complaints received, what penalties and fines has the department issued to-date?***
 - b. *When does the current garbage collection contract expire? Has the department considered moving these services in house? How much would this cost?***

DPW daily monitors the work that both trash haulers perform to ensure that all required collections are performed in a manner that is consistent with contractual requirements, and on the scheduled collection days. When we become aware of a missed collection, the responsible contractor is notified and required to immediately resolve the situation to our satisfaction.

The current contracts expire in June 2024. We are not considering moving these services in-house; the new contracts, when advertised, will provide for increased levels of service, including weekly bulk services.

- 2. *Currently, the department has allotted \$2.96 million for sidewalks. How will this money be used? How many sidewalk repairs will this address? Outside of an increase in funding, how does the department plan on addressing the city's sidewalk issues? Is there effort on behalf of the department to improve concrete quality?***

This street funding will be utilized to replace 15,000 city tree damaged sidewalk flags. As you may be aware, the maintenance of sidewalks is historically the adjacent property owner's responsibility because of the restrictions on the use of street fund dollars. The appropriation of FY 2023 surplus general funds will allow us to repair more sidewalks in the upcoming construction season because general funds are not subject to the same use restrictions.

The Department is more than satisfied with the quality of the concrete mix we specify; therefore, there is no effort underway to change the concrete makeup.

MICHAEL DUGGAN, MAYOR

3. ***In the department's FY 24 proposed budget, there is a \$203,029 decrease in expenditures for street maintenance. What does this street maintenance entail? What is the reason for this slight decrease? Will the department still be able to adequately address street repairs with this decrease?***

Street Maintenance operations is primarily responsible for paving of residential streets, street and alley repairs -- including potholes, cave ins, and heaved streets – as well as street sweeping operations and snow removal.

The \$203K decrease is due to less projected contracted costs in FY24 than in FY23 adopted budget. The FY23 Adopted amount represents an outdated expenditure projection, so the FY24 amount for debris hauling and skin patching have been right-sized to match current actuals and projected use of contracts. This decrease is not projected to impact existing level of operations.

4. ***Does the department have sufficient funding for city cameras to prevent illegal dumping? How many cameras does the current funding allocate? Will this funding be allocated equally between all Council districts? Does the department have plans to increase this funding?***

As of January 2023, there were 59 live illegal dumping camera locations, which included 227 live cameras. There are also 58 decoy locations which include 113 decoy cameras. FY24 Solid Waste Fund budget request includes projected capital expenditures for Illegal Dumping Cameras and the purchase of approximately 230 additional surveillance cameras over the next 5 years for 40 new live locations; the upgrades and maintenance of existing cameras; costs related to installation; and broadband modem and internet service for streaming. Future projections are based on historical costs of approximately \$80K/yr on broadband service and \$135K for 142 cameras, with inflation and rising costs built in.

Current funding for the Illegal Dumping Cameras comes from Solid Waste prior year surplus. With the surplus diminishing, there are no plans to increase funding additional cameras beyond what's already included.

5. ***In 2022, Detroit announced a speed hump program to install 3,000 speed humps. Please provide an update on the status of speed hump installations to date. What results have you seen from the program? Does this analysis align with community feedback?***

Since the program began in 2018, 9,804 speed humps have been installed on local residential streets. As a result, DPW has observed significant reduction in speeding, reckless driving, and crashes on streets with speed humps. Between 2020 and 2022, crashes on all residential streets decreased by 22%. On streets where speed humps were installed in 2021, the number of crashes decreased by 36%. Community feedback has been widely positive with residents expressing notable improvements in safety and comfort on residential blocks. In rare cases

where residents have identified damaged asphalt speed humps or rubber speed cushions, DPW quickly addresses the issue and makes any necessary repairs.

6. ***How are residents being informed of maintenance projects in their neighborhoods as it relates to sidewalk, street, and alley repairs?***

All planned street improvements are posted on the DPW website. Prior to any road or sidewalk construction beginning, affected residents are provided information that details the work to be performed, as well as beginning and anticipated end dates, so that any inconveniences can be minimized.

7. ***What is the department's plan to provide quality, timely services for snow removal? What areas benefit from the department's snow removal services? Please include all districts associated.***

DPW has been very effective in providing snow removal services. We utilize a tiered approach when determining the most effective manner to fight each individual snow event. This includes having contractors in place to plow residential streets when we receive at least six (6) inches of accumulated snowfall.

DPW provides these services equally across all seven (7) of the City Council Districts.

8. ***A previous highlight of the department included an aggressive program to ensure that all newly resurfaced streets in the city are compliant with all Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility standards for handicap ramps. Is this program current? Can you provide an updated analysis of the program?***

DPW has been installing ADA ramps in conjunction with road paving projects since 2006. The program is current, and we continue the policy of installing ADA compliant ramps and sidewalks, when needed, as a component of all paving projects. To date, 55,000 fully compliant ramps have been installed.

9. ***Is there opportunity for the department to champion a variety of streetscape designs? If so, how will the department do so?***

Yes, there are various options when designing streetscapes. The final designs are selected with substantial input from the residents and businesses in the impacted areas, and in a manner that is designed to address specific concerns and objectives of the adjacent community.

a. ***How much funding is allocated towards streetscape designs?***

To this point, streetscape projects have all been funded with Road Bonds approved in 2017. There is no street or general funding in DPW's submitted 2023-24 budget that will be utilized

for streetscapes. A planned Dexter Avenue streetscape project will be constructed with ARPA funds, beginning in 2023.

b. How many additional neighborhoods will receive streetscape designs based on the allocated funding?

No funding is included in our submitted budget for streetscapes.

Respectfully submitted,

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