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TO: CM Gabriela Santiago-Romero, City Council District 6

FROM: LaJuan Counts, Executive Director
Detroit Construction & Demolition Department

DATE: March 24, 2023

RE: **FY 2023 – 2024 Budget Questions**
Detroit Construction & Demolition Department Response

Detroit Construction & Demolition Department answers to the following questions:

1. What are the short- and long-term goals of the proposed Detroit Construction and Demolition Department?

Short Term FY 24 Goals:

- **Complete 400 Residential Emergency Demolitions**
- **Complete 10 Commercial Emergency Demolitions**
- **Complete 75 Ordered Demolitions**
- **Complete 3,000 Residential Board-ups**

Long Term:

- **Long term, the department foresees it will be responsible for managing city assets from “cradle to grave”. This will include planning and managing the development of capital projects for an asset, maintaining the asset, and then finally demolishing the asset once it is ready to be retired.**

2. Please explain the rationale behind the inclusion of construction.

Director Counts previously oversaw the Facilities Maintenance Division and Capital Planning Division within the General Services Department for over 7 years. She retains a great deal of institutional knowledge and experience managing facility maintenance and capital planning across the City of Detroit. Transferring the Facilities Management Division will allow Director Counts to continue to apply her experience and expertise in supervising maintenance and capital planning activities across the City.



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3. If the Department pivots toward construction, what can City Council and its residents expect?
 - a. Will the Department shift its focus from trash-out services as a mechanism of stabilization and investigate other stabilization techniques and methods to salvage properties?

The Detroit Demolition Department does not anticipate shifting its focus away from trash-out services as a stabilization technique. The addition of construction and facility maintenance is only intended to be completed on city-owned commercial facilities and does not include any residential construction.

4. How is the Department notified of properties that are deemed an emergency demolition?

The City of Detroit's Buildings, Safety Engineering, & Environmental Department (BSEED) shares an emergency letter with the Detroit Demolition Department to notify of the emergency. BSEED also updates a field in salesforce.

5. Are there any plans to reevaluate the criteria for properties that are put on the demolition list?

The City of Detroit Demolition Department does not select which properties are to be demolished. The decision is made by BSEED for privately owned homes, and by the DLBA for DLBA owned properties.