



To: Council Member Scott Benson, City Council District 3
From: Crystal Perkins, Director, GSD
Date: March 28, 2023

Re: Responses to General Services Budget Questions

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 22, 2023, regarding the proposed Fiscal Year 2024 Proposed Budget for the General Services Department.

- 1. What is the plan to change our fleet to more environmentally friendly vehicles, given the continued purchase of gas-only powered vehicles by various departments?**

We realize that transitioning to hybrid and electric vehicles is essential to reduce carbon emissions. We are currently in contract negotiations with a firm to provide a strategic plan to convert our fleet to electric or hybrid. This firm will help assess our fleet to determine where we can best start our conversion and establish timelines for doing so responsibly.

- 2. When will a director be hired for the Office of Sustainability? How many staff people will be in this office, considering the need for more than one person in similar offices across the country?**

Jack Akinlosotu has been hired as the Director of the Office of Sustainability, and we are currently working with Mr. Akinlosotu to assess the personnel needs of the office. We have committed personnel in GSD and other departments to support the sustainability efforts of the city.

- 3. When will the department begin cleaning up the berms and highways around the city?**

We will begin to service the berms and freeways by the second week of April. We are excited to service the freeways to help keep the city clean and beautiful.

- 4. Please explain the Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program. Why is this in your budget? Is the \$700,000 grant money or is it coming from another place?**

Appropriation 21190-Strategic Traffic Enforcement Program was misclassified due to a data entry error in the name of the appropriation. The correct account name should be Appropriation 21190-Child & Adult Care Food Program and will be corrected in the FY24 Adopted Budget. This is a grant-funded food support program.



5. What are your plans for the Northwest Activity Center, considering the potential decrease in community access due to increased rental fees, non-renewal of current tenants, and the growth of the Goal Line Program?

The rental fees at the Northwest Activity Center have been the same for quite some time. We are currently conducting a study to see how we stand against the market rate for rental of similar space. We are looking to provide more space for wraparound services for the community and other programming. The growth of the Goal Line will not impede community access to the center.

6. What is the plan for general repairs and facilities maintenance of the 36th District Court? How will the budget increase of \$1,360,277 (B47-13) for 36th Court be used?

We have begun working closely with the court administrator and our third-party building manager to identify the major capital improvement needs at the courthouse. The budget increase for FY24 is to cover the increased cost in security services for the court.

7. What is the department doing to increase child involvement in recreation programs?

We are currently working on a Recreation Center refresh project that will revamp and rejuvenate twelve centers across the city. We will address the issue of secure play areas, insufficient maintenance of existing infrastructure, and a lack of opportunities and resources for our young citizens and youth. This project will involve upgrading existing centers, refreshing furniture & fixtures, introducing new equipment & technology, and creating secure community spaces in neighborhoods throughout the city.

8. (B47-14) Please provide details on Appropriation 3400 Solid Waste. What is the cause of the \$4.2 million reduction in this appropriation?

This reduction is due to the transfer of all proposed, budgeted funds in Cost Center 472120 - Neighborhood Trades Unit from the Solid Waste Fund to the Blight Fund.

9. What is the timeline for the completion of Farwell Recreation Center?

We are currently in the procurement phase for the Farewell Recreation Center gymnasium renovations. Construction is expected to start May 2023 and will conclude May 2024.

10. How much money is allocated for the Recreation Department After School Program?

The department has allocated \$93,500 of our general fund dollars to after school programming in addition to \$497,730 for athletics programming.



CITY OF DETROIT
GENERAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

115 ERSKINE ST.
DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48201
PHONE 313 • 628-0900
FAX 313 • 628-1915

11. (B47-12) What is the rationale for the \$6,964,900 reduction in Recreation Operations this budget year?

The reduction in Recreation Operations is mostly due to the consolidation of utilities expenditures from GSD to Non-Departmental.

12. How long will Northwest Activity Center serve as the COVID hub for the city?

As of February 24, 2023, the Health Department has moved their COVID-19 operations from the Northwest Activities Center to 100 Mack.