MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Art Thompson, Chief Information Officer, Department of Innovation and Technology

FROM: City Council President Mary Sheffield

DATE: April 17, 2023

RE: Department of Innovation & Technology Budget Questions FY23-24

1. One of DoIT's goals is to develop a digital inclusion strategy to help bridge the digital divide in Detroit. How much of the $57M budget is allocated for this purpose? What major actions will be taken by DoIT in the next year to bridge the digital divide?

2. It appears that the Digital Inclusion & Equity Division falls under DoIT's umbrella, however the Director and Deputy Director of Digital Inclusion are not listed in your position detail. Can you provide more details on how the Digital Inclusion and Equity staff are classified and paid? Is this division fully staffed?

3. Your budget shows that the largest portion by far ($15M) is going to Licensing & Contracts. Ideally, the money spent by the city will be invested back into the city to grow wealth here. On average, what percent of your annual contracts go to Detroit-based companies? Are there new strategies planned to bring more IT contracts in house?

4. There has been discussion of mentorship programs with contracted companies outside of the city to promote capacity and skill growth for smaller Detroit-based companies. Please share any existing agreements of this kind, as well as how DoIT plans to facilitate mentorship-style programs in the future.

5. In 2021, it was announced that Detroit was selected to participate in the Federal Emergency Broadband Benefit program which offered internet and technology discounts. The EBB program ended last February. Were there efforts made by the IT Department to

soften the blow that residents felt from this loss of benefits? Has your department received feedback from residents on the effects of the benefit loss?

6. Strategic technology planning is one of the responsibilities of the Detroit's IT Department. Please give examples of some strategic planning that occurred in FY2023 and what we can expect in FY2024.

7. The proposed expenditure budget went from $35.5M in FY2023 to $57.3M in FY2024. The bulk of this increase appears to be for Operating Supplies and Operating Services. How much of this increase will be spent within the city? Also, what specific services and supplies are the cause of this increase?

8. Please share what outreach efforts are made by this department. This includes notifying residents of available data and documents, notifying local businesses of RFPs, and any requests for feedback.

9. What metrics are used to evaluate DoIT's performance from year to year? $57M is a significant portion of the City's annual budget for services which residents don't often directly receive. What should residents know about the IT Department to feel assured that funds are being spent appropriately and efficiently?

10. City Council reviews many new contracts, contract amendments, and contract extensions/renewals. Are there any service contracts that DoIT has had for a year or more that have not been renewed? What percentage of your contracts are renewed and what percent are not renewed?