JULY 2023 ISSUE 17

District 2



NEWSLETTER

FROM THE OFFICE OF COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD CALLOWAY, JD





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council-district-2

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PRESS RELEASE

Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway Ordinance to Ban Cashless Businesses Passes Unanimously

Detroit, MI- In April 2023, Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway (District 2) proposed an ordinance to amend the Detroit City Code; Sales, by adding a ban on cashless retail and food service businesses. Today, Detroit City Council unanimously approved the ordinance. "The purpose of this ordinance is to remove economic barriers for over a hundred thousand Detroiters who are unbanked or underbanked, providing them equal access to goods and services. This ban is really going to protect the rights of the least of us. The poor, the low-income, the senior citizens, the youth, the homeless, and people like me who still like to use cash," said Council Member Calloway. According to the latest University of Michigan Poverty Solutions study, over 18% of Detroit residents are unbanked. The ordinance gives all residents the ability and freedom to purchase goods and services without restriction in the city of Detroit. Council Member Calloway and her staff express their gratitude to all City Council members, the Legislative Policy Division, and the city's Law Department, who worked tirelessly to make the system work for all Detroiters. This ordinance is the first step in a larger struggle to fully engage all Detroit residents in the local economy. We should be proud of our city Council Members for supporting this ordinance.



Formal Session on June 20, 2023









HONORING NANDI COMER, MICHIGAN'S FIRST BLACK WOMAN POET LAUREATE

During the Formal Session on June 20th, 2023, Council Member Calloway recognized Nandi Comer with a Testimonial Resolution from the Detroit City Council, honoring her as Michigan's Poet Laureate. Comer's appointment on April 12th, 2023, marked the first time the state had a Poet Laureate since 1959, and for the first time, a Black woman will hold the position.

Raised in Detroit, Comer graduated from the University of Michigan with a Bachelor of Arts in English and Spanish, focusing on Latin American Culture. Comer then completed a Master of Arts in African American Literature and a Master of Fine Arts in Poetry, both from Indiana University. Comer's work can be found in several publications, including the Callaloo Literary Journal and the Crab Orchard Review. Her books, American Family Syndrome and Tapping Out, have received critical acclaim, with the latter earning her the 2020 Society of Midland Authors Award and the 2020 Julie Suk Award. Additionally, Comer has won the Vera Meyer Strube Poetry Prize and the Crab Orchard Review's 2014 Richard Peterson Poetry Prize. Comer is a 2019 Kresge Literary Arts Fellow and is heavily involved in the Detroit literary community. Currently, Comer serves as the Director of Allied Media Projects Speakers Bureau and is co-director of Detroit Lit, which provides reading and professional development opportunities to narrative makers of color in Detroit. Nandi Comer is a remarkable writer, educator, activist, and community leader dedicated to amplifying contemporary voices.



Monday, September 18, 2023, 5:30-6:30 PM
Click the link below to join:
https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/i/83887719918

Or manually enter the Meeting ID: 838 8771 9918 Passcode: 605413

COFFEE & CONVERSATION RETURNS IN SEPTEMBER

Join Council Member Calloway and her team at the Atmosphere of Praise Community Center at **8615 Puritan Avenue** for a casual and friendly Coffee & Conversation on **Monday, September 11, 2023**, at 8 AM. The main objective of this event is to provide residents of District 2 with a comfortable setting to interact with the Council Member and her team. Moreover, attendees can meet other members of the community who share similar interests and concerns and collectively brainstorm sustainable solutions. We encourage residents to attend to stay informed about the latest initiatives and programs designed to enhance their quality of life in District 2 and the city of Detroit overall.

DISTRICT 2 VIRTUAL MEETING

Take advantage of the upcoming District 2 virtual community meeting. The meeting will have an educational presentation about tax incentives and how they work in the city of Detroit. Here are the meeting details:

- Monday, September 18, 2023, at 5:30 PM
- Detroit Economic Growth Corporation discusses Tax Incentives
- Zoom link: cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/83887719918
- Meeting ID: 838 8771 9918 & Passcode: 605413

Be sure to mark your calendars and join us for this informative presentation.







OBSERVING JUNETEENTH – A CELEBRATION OF FREEDOM AND CULTURE

June 19th, 1865, marks the day that word finally reached the enslaved in Galveston, Texas, that their emancipation had been made formal. Although it had been official since January 1, 1863, it wasn't until this day that all enslaved peoples were informed of their freedom. On June 17th, 2023, Council Member Calloway and her team participated in the Juneteenth Jubilee Freedom Weekend celebration on the Historic Avenue of Fashion. During the event, the team engaged with community members shared information on the history of Juneteenth and enjoyed the festivities. Council Member Calloway even graced the stage with her dance moves and welcoming remarks to everyone in attendance.

Juneteenth is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of ending slavery in the United States. Also known as Freedom Day, Jubilee Day, and Emancipation Day, African American communities across the country take this time to reflect on their history and culture and celebrate their freedom. Council Member Calloway and her team are dedicated to community engagement and recognizing the importance of celebrating history and culture. It's vital to honor events like Juneteenth and acknowledge the strides made toward freedom and equality.



FREEDOM ARTS FESTIVAL

Join the Detroit Parks Coalition for a free all-ages event at Palmer Park this summer. The Freedom Arts Festival will be held on Sunday, July 9, from 2-5 PM at 1121 Merrill Plaisance. This event will feature food, an art display by Marta Carvajal, hands-on art activities for kids, and live music performances by Marion Hayden & Freedom Legacy and King Mellowman & Mellow Running. Remember to bring a blanket or lawn chair, and invite your friends and family to join the fun!

This festival is part of a series of free events happening throughout the summer at various parks in Detroit. Be sure to check out the full lineup on detroitparkscoalition.com and make the most of your summer in the city!

PARKING ON THE AVENUE OF FASHION

Thanks to the combined efforts of Council Member Calloway, community stakeholders, and residents, there is now an accessible free parking lot on the Avenue of Fashion. The lot is positioned between Saint Martin and Pembroke Avenue on the east side of Livernois. The free parking lot provides convenience and accessibility to residents and visitors, granting easy access to local businesses and services. This is a positive step towards making the area more welcoming and accommodating.



STAMPING OUT HUMAN TRAFFICKING

Join us on Saturday, July 29, 2023, at Alternatives for Girls (903 W. Grand **Boulevard**) from 11 AM until 3 PM as we observe World Day Against Trafficking in Persons. This event is a joint effort by the Detroit Police Department, Crime Stoppers of Michigan, Alternatives for Girls, Neighborhood Legal Services, MAP, and Covenant House. The event will feature a March to #EndHumanTrafficking, an educational forum to engage parents and youth on trafficking and internet safety, food, and outdoor activities. To RSVP, please scan the QR code on the flyer. If you have any questions about the Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force, please email thomaesa.bailey@detroitmi.gov.





WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

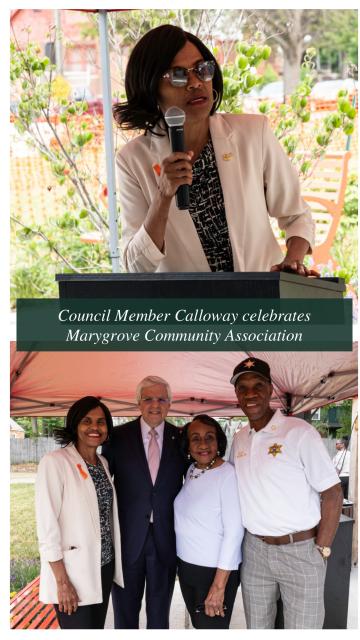
Do you have a community meeting coming up? If so, the Office of Council Member Calloway would like to provide updates. To invite us to your next event, don't hesitate to contact our office at (313) 224-4535 or email

CouncilMemberCalloway@detroitmi.gov with the details.

GRAND OPENING OF HUNTINGTON PARK

Council Member Calloway proudly attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony of Huntington Park last month. The Marygrove Community Association officially unveiled the park on June 22, 2023, located on Kentucky Avenue between Puritan Avenue and Florence. It was built on three previously undeveloped lots owned by the Detroit Land Bank Authority. The ceremony drew several community stakeholders and nearby residents, celebrating a fantastic example of how community leaders and organizations can come together to create positive change in their neighborhoods. The new park offers a range of amenities, including a walking path and ample green space for residents to enjoy. Its location in the heart of the Marygrove community makes it easily accessible for families and individuals looking to spend time outdoors. The ceremony was a memorable event that brought together community members and stakeholders to celebrate this achievement.



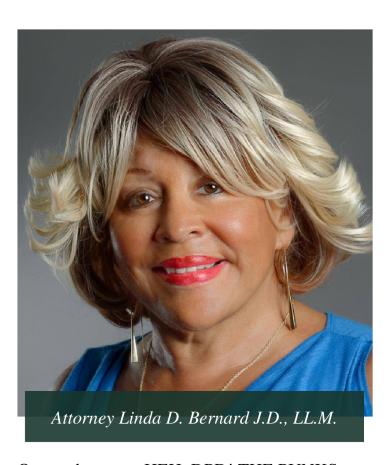




The Board of Police Commissioners voted to recommend an investment of \$5 million to purchase License Plate Readers (LPRs). I voted against the purchase for data privacy concerns, concerns which I am trying to address in the LPR policy. When LPRs snap a photo of your car, it logs your license plate number and the time, date, and GPS location of the vehicle sighting. Currently, 55 are mounted in scout cars, and 45 are stationary in undisclosed locations. I'm acutely aware of the need for LPRs to be used in AMBER ALERT situations, stolen car recoveries, and apprehending persons in the commission of a crime or attempting to avoid arrest. However, as your elected commissioner, and the only lawyer on the Commission, I and several others requested a presentation on the "civil liberties ramifications of this technology." ACLU Michigan representatives presented and stated: "DPD's proposal treats ALL Detroiters as potential suspects and tracks their real-time whereabouts without having committed any crime. Their primary concerns are accuracy and effectiveness, privacy and data retention, and data sharing. Like all technology, LPR results can be flawed. Every "hit" generated from the "Hot Sheet" of stolen vehicles or vehicles driven by wanted persons is not always accurate. They can result in "unwarranted police confrontations," – which can result in serious situations and civil unrest. Also, some data indicates that the benefit of the \$5M investment relates mostly to registration issues. For every 1 million plates read, only about 2,000 (or 0.2%) are hits! Nonetheless, LPRs are considered a valuable tool by DPD in addressing increases in car thefts and in solving crime.

The central issue is what police depts. do with all that data? Massachusetts went to court and forced the Police Department to delete the unused data every 48 hours and limit sharing that data to federal, state, and local police depts. The BOPC is negotiating a policy with DPD to delete all unused data every 30 days and limit data sharing to federal, state, and local police depts after prior notice to the Commission.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR POLICE COMMISSIONER



On another note, HEH, DPD! THE PUNKS GOT PUNKED by a DPD officer who had been on the job less than 30 days! The attempted taking of an officer's gun was met with a fierce struggle, causing the punks to flee the scene! Although the officer would have been justified to shoot and ask questions later, I'm glad there was no loss of life on either side. Please let Me and Councilwoman Calloway know what you think! Stay SAFE and COOL! Attorney Linda D. Bernard J.D., LL.M.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR THE ANNUAL JAZZ ON THE AVE CELEBRATION!

Join us on Saturday, August 5, 2023, on Detroit's Historic Avenue of Fashion for a legendary celebration of Jazz on the Ave. This annual event features Charles and Gwen Scales, Lord Yancyy, Deblon, Swygert's Jazz Set, and many talented musicians. Jazz on the Ave is a Customer Appreciation Day where 100 businesses come together to offer food, fashion, art, music, and family fun. Come and be part of the excitement on The Avenue of Fashion!

ORGANIZING A BLOCK CLUB TO EMPOWER YOUR COMMUNITY

A block club is a group of individuals living in the same street or neighborhood with a shared interest in enhancing their community. By working together, they can effectively advocate for their area and maximize the city resources available. The group's purpose often involves addressing the community's problems and fulfilling residents' needs. To establish a block club, recruiting a core group of members who can collaboratively develop and execute the group's objectives is crucial. This requires teamwork and empowerment to ensure every member is engaged and contributes to the community's growth. To find out how to start a block club, visit

detroitmi.gov/departments/departmentneighborhoods/block-club-program or call our office at (313) 224-4535.





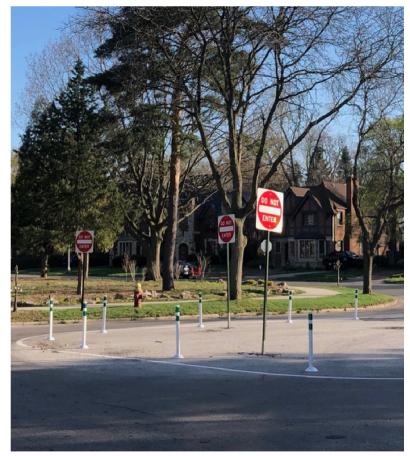
MARYGROVE BLOCK PARTY

Join Council Member Calloway and her team at the Marygrove Conservancy Block Party on Saturday, August 12, 2023 from 12 PM until 4 PM. The block party is a fantastic opportunity to connect with your community and access valuable resources. Stop by the Council Member's informational table for vital information regarding tree removal, block club starter kits, blight remediation, and other essentials for Detroit residents.

In addition to the informational table, there will be plenty of exciting activities to enjoy. From free food and giveaways to live entertainment and campus tours, there is something for everyone! This is the perfect chance to explore the beautiful Marygrove campus and engage with your neighbors.

TRAFFIC CALMING IN SHERWOOD FOREST

Council Member Calloway and the Department of Public Works plan to host a community meeting regarding traffic calming in the Sherwood Forest neighborhood. Traffic calming utilizes design strategy and physical adjustments to reduce traffic speeds for safety and accessibility. Environmental adjustments, such as physical barriers and speed humps, force motorists to pay attention to their surroundings and alter their driving behaviors, resulting in lower speeds and safer driving. Traffic calming aims to prevent high-speed, rushed driving. The date and time will be determined; please stay connected with the Council Member through social media and community events for more information.



District 2

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