

STATE OF THE CITY

2024



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DETROIT CITY COUNCIL & CITY CLERK



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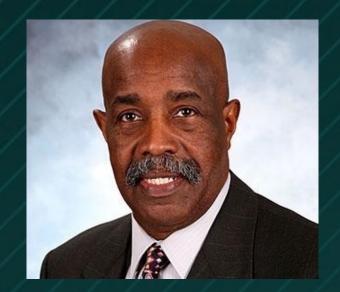
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BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS





MAYOR'S CABINET

Thank you to Reverend Richard White and Dexter Avenue Baptist Church for Hosting us Tonight





In 2013, I attended 250 house parties in every Detroit neighborhood – for many, things seemed hopeless



Just 10 years later, 300,000 visitors will be coming to see our city - the eyes of America will be on Detroit



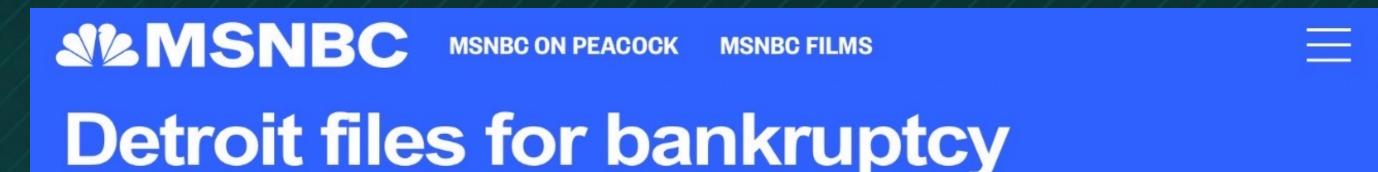
Past drafts have drawn 300,000 or more visitors – And more than 50 million viewers on TV



We hope to be like the Lions... ...and introduce America to a very different Detroit than they expect



While they're here, we'll encourage them to visit the Detroit sites they were shown during the 2013 bankruptcy



Detroit has become the biggest city in U.S. history to file for Chapter 9 bankruptcy protection.



And see how the city has changed in a short time



On the east side, visitors will find a new Jeep plant employing thousands of Detroiters



They'll find the former GM Poletown Plant



Has reopened as Factory Zero, with 4,000 employees now making electric vehicles



State Fairgrounds abandoned since 2011 – Has been rebuilt as a major employment and transit center With 1200 employees just at Amazon



On West Grand Boulevard, they'll find the new Henry Ford Cancer Institute



The first step in a \$3-billion hospital development



The Hudson's property abandoned for 40 years Is now home to the 2nd tallest building in Michigan



When it's finished next year, it will become the new GM World Headquarters



New high-rises reshaping Detroit's skyline: Torgows' Huntington Bank Headquarters and Water Square

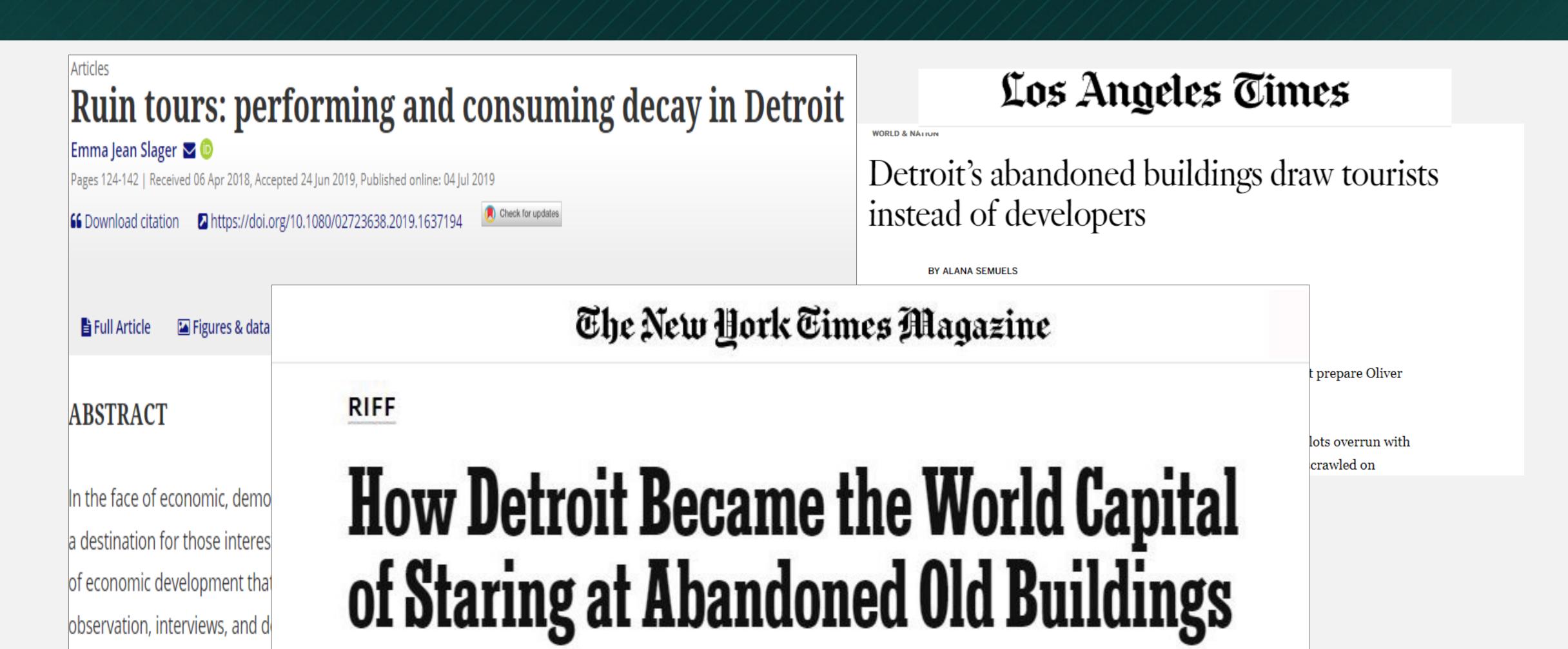




With yesterday's unanimous approval by City Council, a new Convention Hotel will soon go up next to Water Square



10 years ago, people came to Detroit on ruin porn tours



This year, they'll find that the 40-year abandoned Hudson's Motors Plant



Has been replaced with a 700-employee Lear seating plant

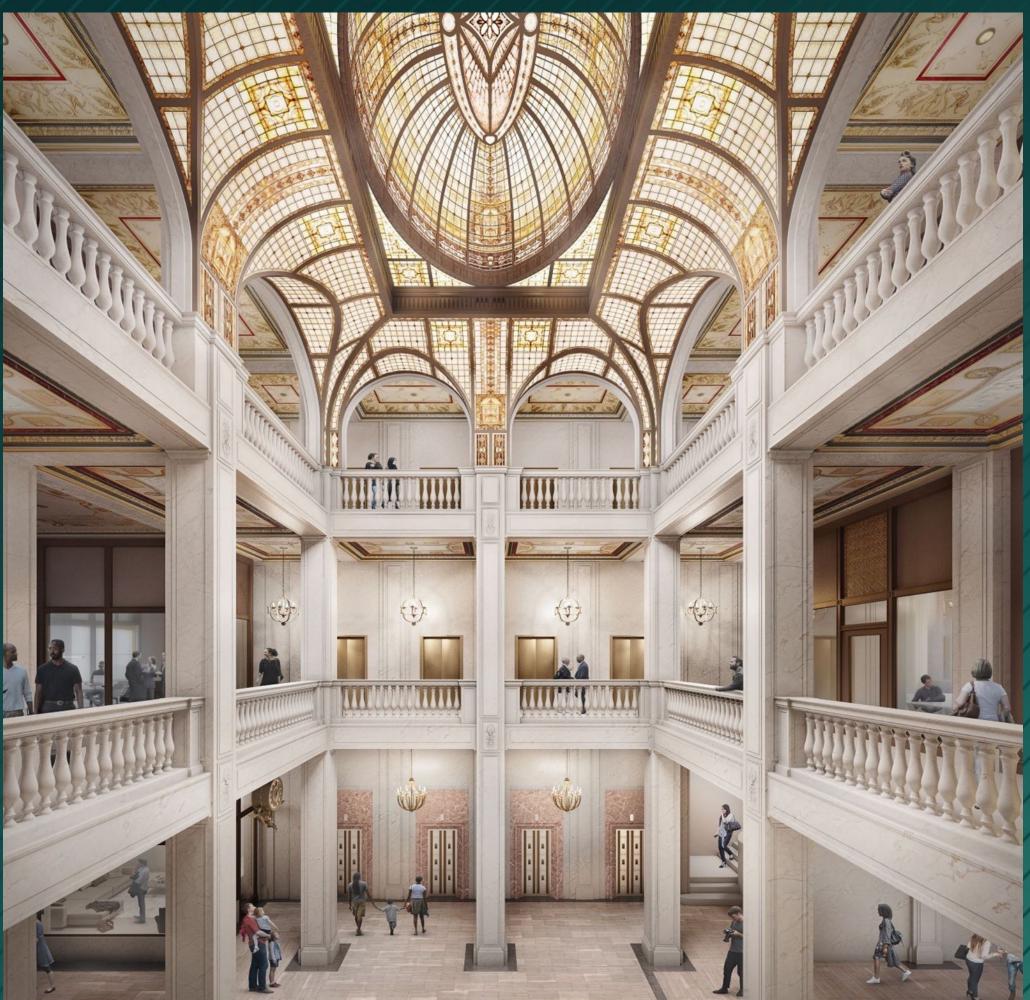


The Book Tower abandoned for 25 years



Has been beautifully restored by Dan Gilbert with new apartments and restaurants



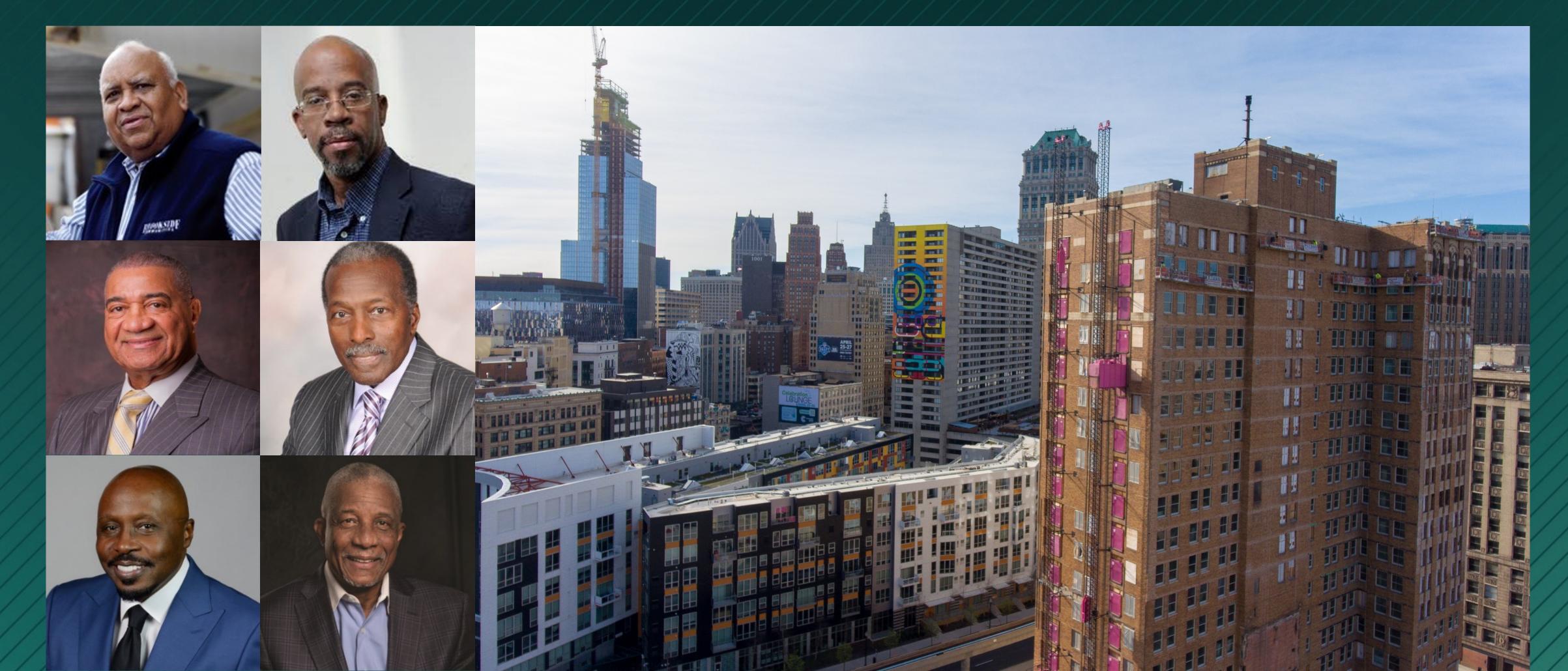


United Artists Theater Building closed in 1983

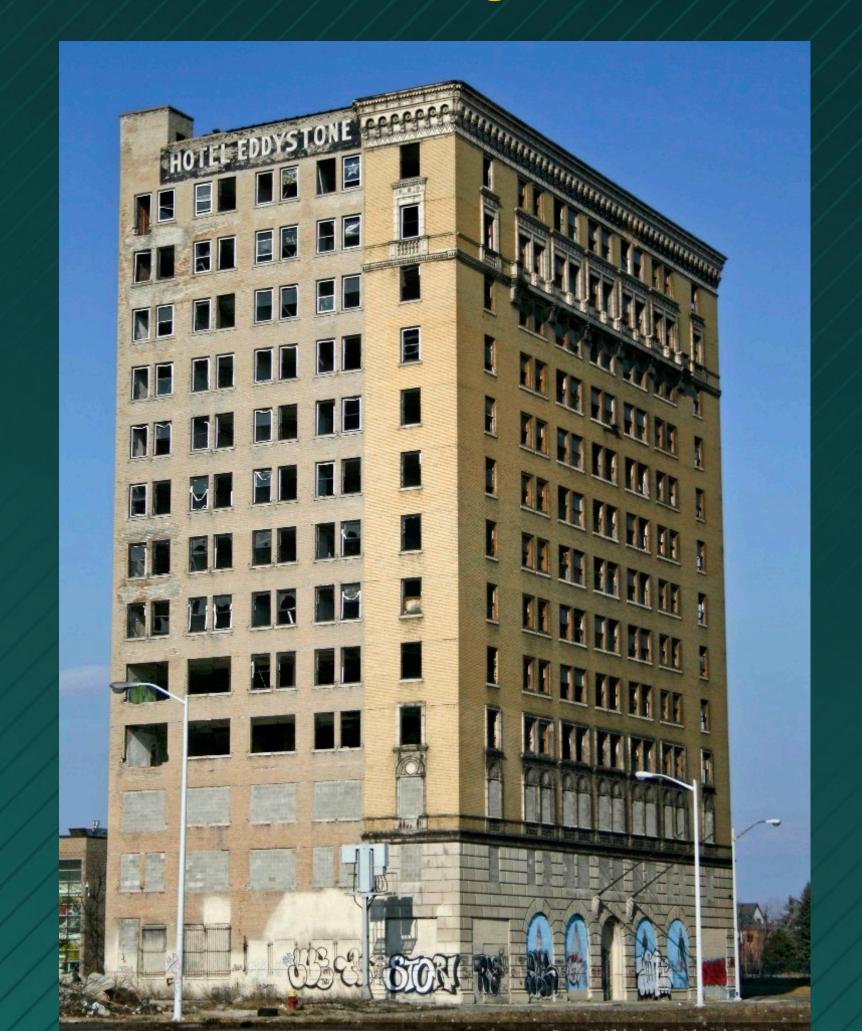




Is being converted to 150 apartments by a team of lifelong Detroiters



The long-abandoned Eddystone now restored by Chris Ilitch into beautiful apartments





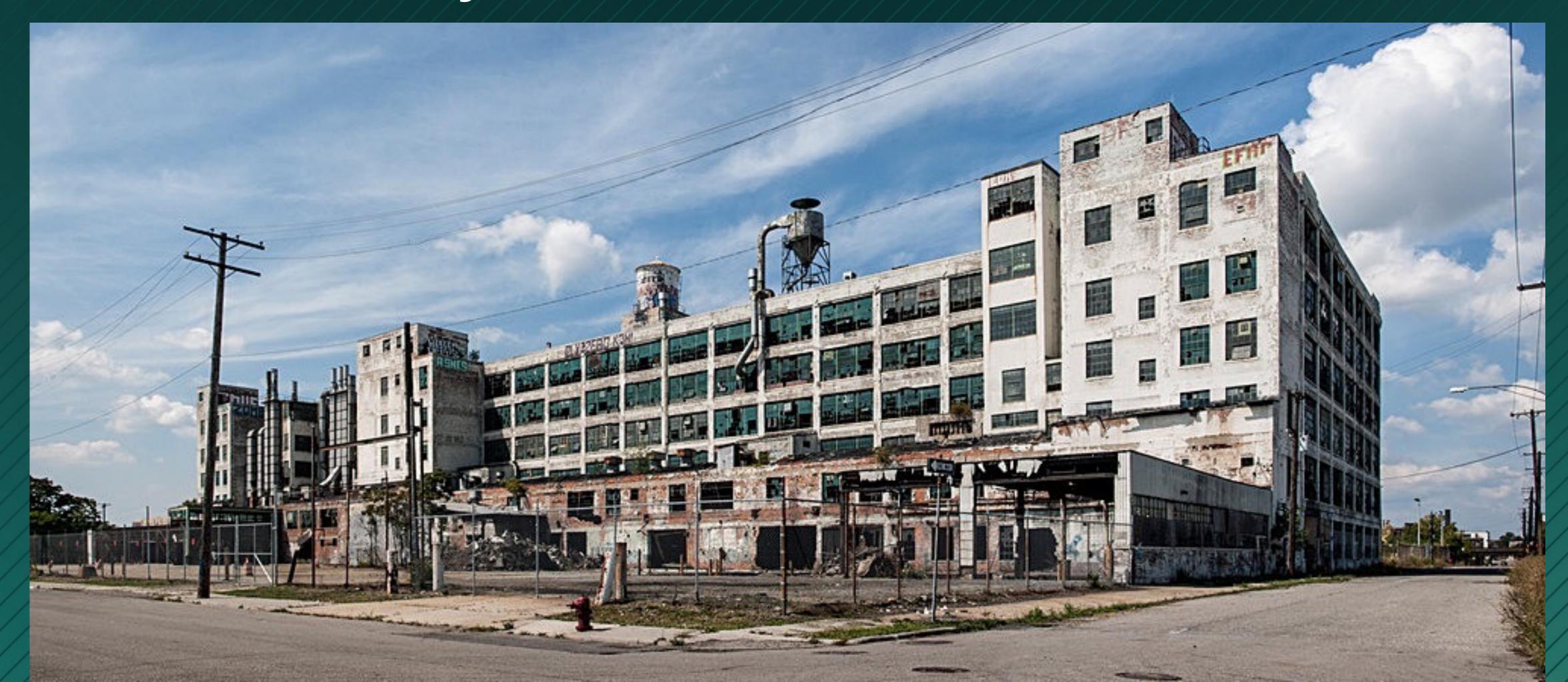
30-year abandoned AMC Headquarters on Plymouth



Is now the site of a new GM parts facility that will employ hundreds



Ruins of abandoned auto plants: Fisher Body Plant at I-94 and I-75 closed in 1984



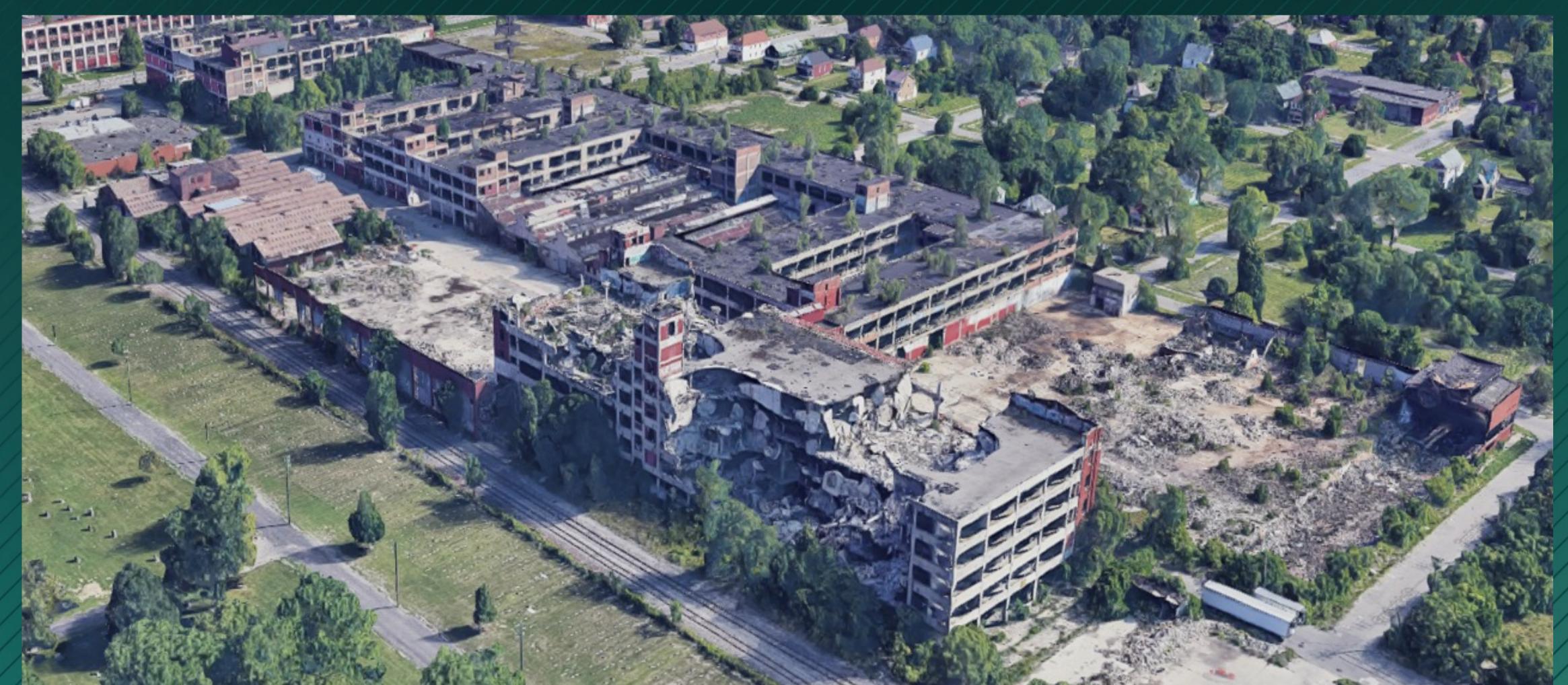
Now being renovated by Greg Jackson and Richard Hosey



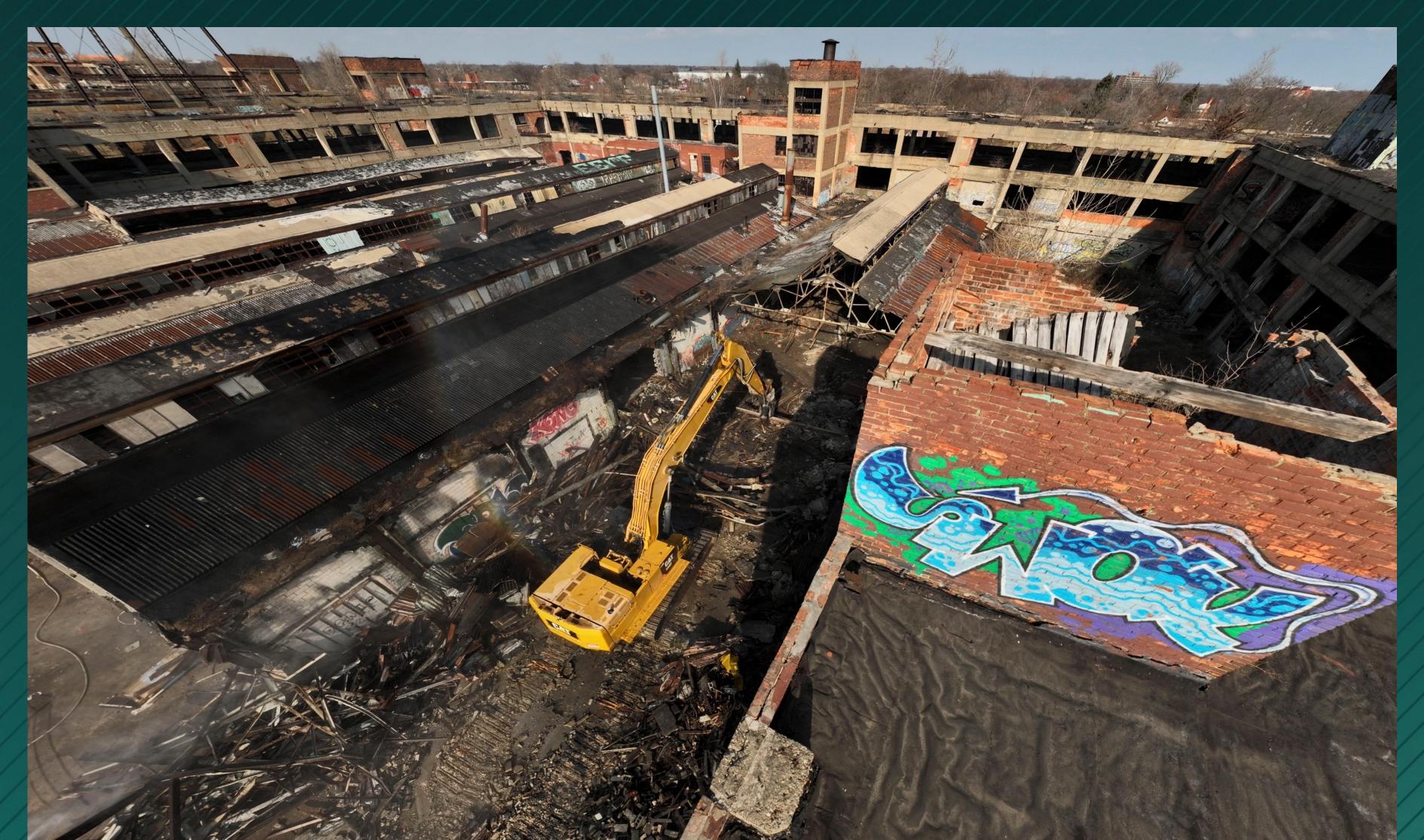
Building 435 apartments and 38,000 sq ft of retail



The abandoned Packard Plant that stopped making cars in 1956



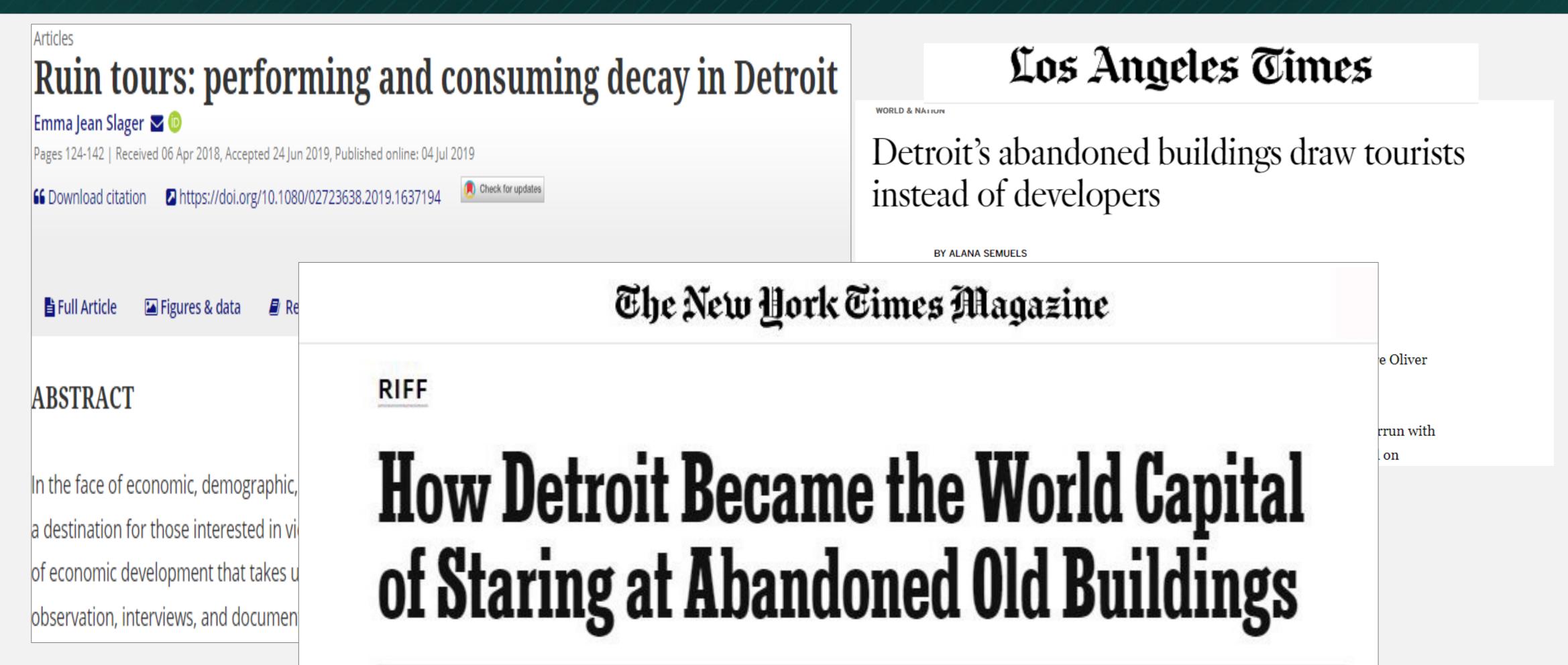
Is being demolished this year



Saving the plant's East Grand Boulevard frontage as part of a new auto manufacturing site



So this year we are officially declaring Detroit's ruin porn tours...



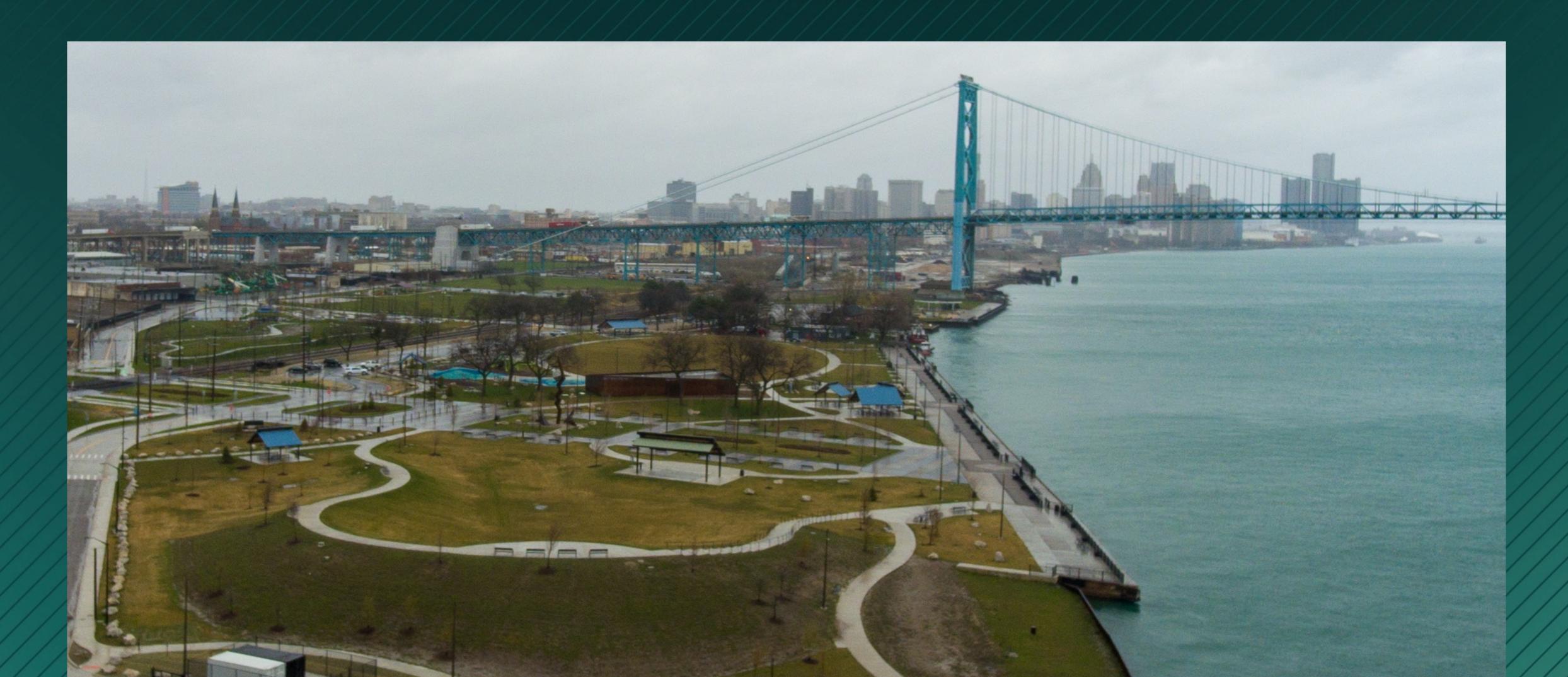
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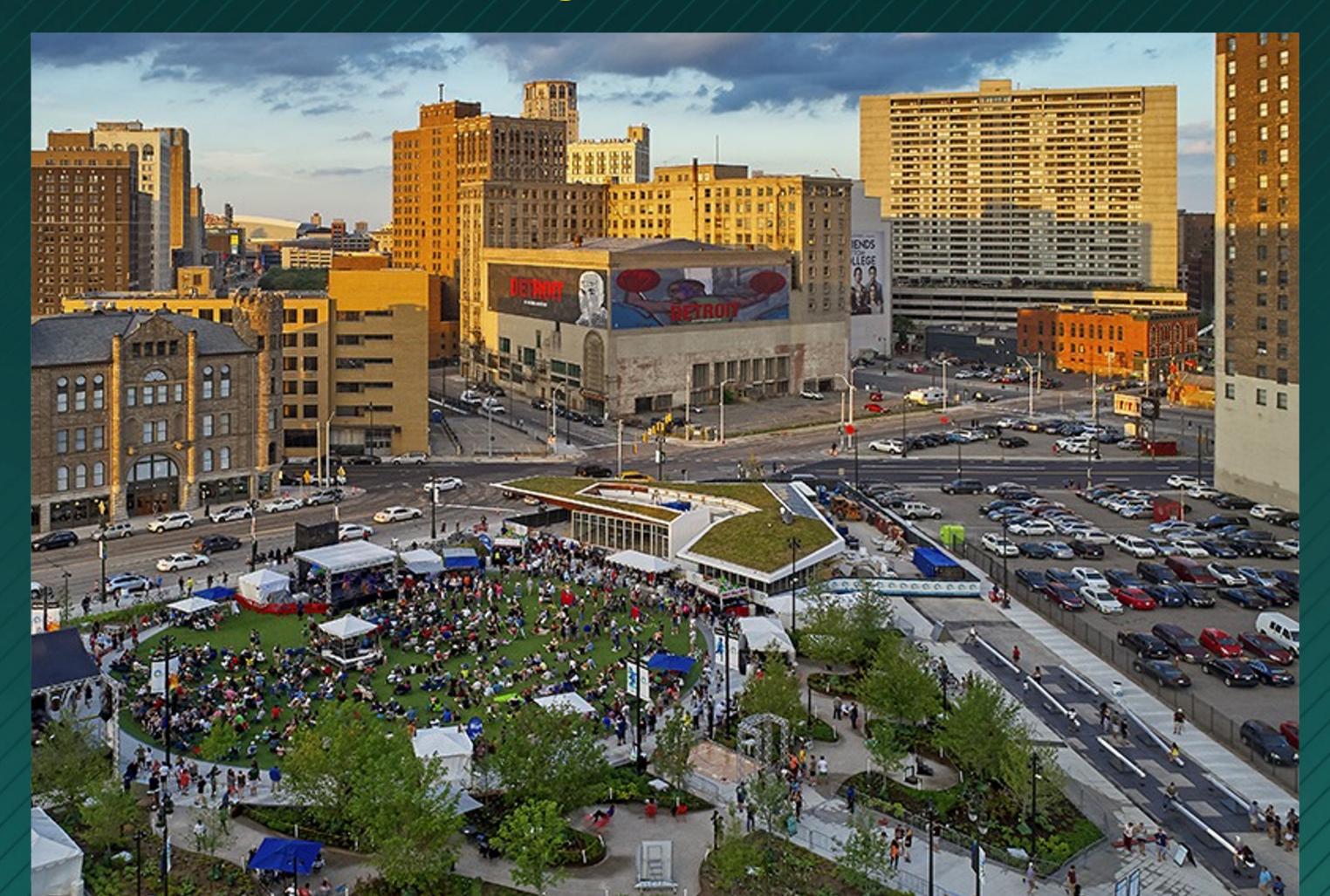
Instead of blight, they can visit beauty On abandoned riverfront land in Southwest Detroit



We built the world class Riverside Park



DTE took an eyesore on Grand River and built the very popular Beacon Park



Our industrial riverfront Is now rated the finest riverwalk in America



Our visitors will find another dramatic change: Detroit's financial condition

The New Hork Times

Billions in Debt, Detroit Tumbles Into Insolvency THEFiscaltimes

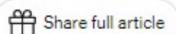


SHOWS

SHOP

Detroit Becomes Largest U.S. City to File for Bankruptcy

Detroit's 60-Year Decline into Bankruptcy ile for bankruptcy.



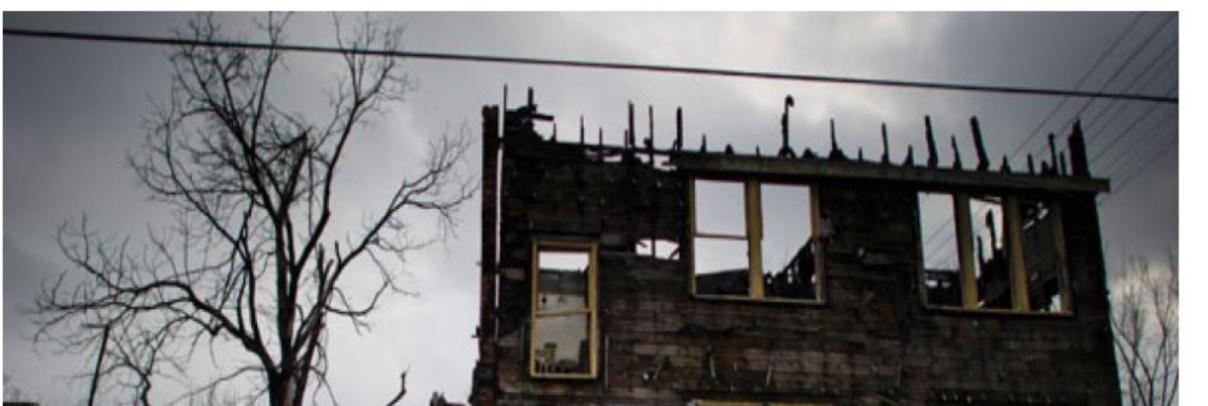


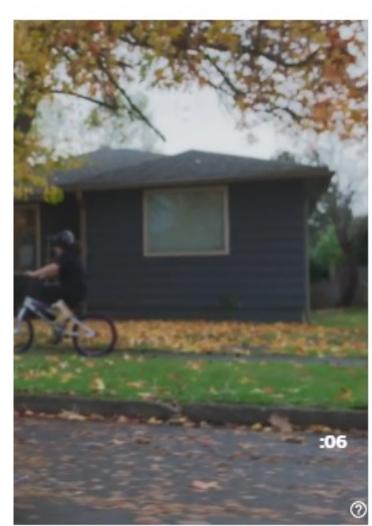


Detroit's 60-Year Decline into Bankruptcy Hell

The "Motor City" has been singing the blues for decades.







ecision for city officials.

Last month: Detroit returned to investment grade credit rating for the first time since 2009



Detroit's credit rating hits investment grade for the first time since bankruptcy



As our finances improve, I'm working to lower your property taxes

Fighting in Lansing for a Land Value Tax that would cut property taxes on homeowners by 17% and raise them on parking lots and scrap yards



NOV 20

2023

While it's stalled in Lansing, we are acting here in Detroit to cut your taxes ourselves

July 2023
1 mill tax cut

July 2024
1 mill tax cut

July 2025 1 mill cut proposed



As our finances improved, we didn't defund the police We made a 10-year commitment to improving public safety



In 2013, Detroit had the highest homicide rate in America



Entertainment Advertise Obituaries eNewspaper



NEWS

FBI: Detroit's 2013 homicide rate leads the nation

Gina Damron and Kristi Tanner, Detroit Free Press

Published 2:22 p.m. ET Nov. 10, 2014 | Updated 4:23 p.m. ET Nov. 10, 2014





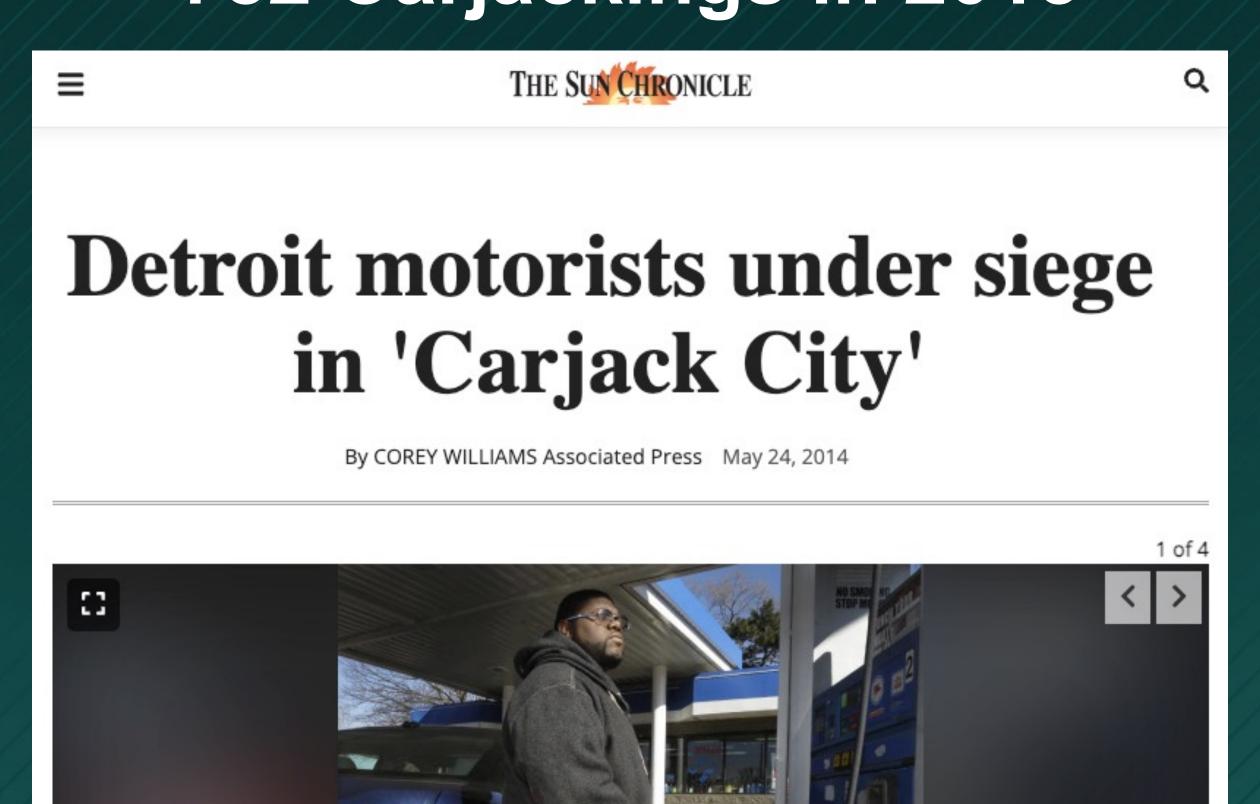


Detroit had the highest homicide rate among the nation's larger cities in 2013, FBI crime statistics released today show.

According to the FBI, Detroit had 316 homicides in 2013 and a population of 699,889, putting the city's rate at about 45 homicides per 100,000 residents more than any other city in the nation



We were known nationally as "Carjack City" – 782 Carjackings in 2013



In a photo from April 9, 2014, Greg Champion wears a gun while pumping gas in Detroit. To avoid becoming a carjacking victim, Champion wears a handgun on his hip whenever he's pumping gas. Through May 19, Detroit has recorded 191 carjackings in 2014. (AP Photo/Carlos Osorio)

In 2013, brand-new Police Chief James Craig was nearly carjacked himself

The Detroit News: James Craig nearly carjacked in unmarked car

By FOX19 Digital Media Staff
Published: Oct. 23, 2013 at 8:18 PM EDT



Pay and morale were so low, good officers left Detroit in record numbers



We gave officers record pay increases to make DPD pay competitive with other cities

Detroit police officers receive a \$10,000 pay raise

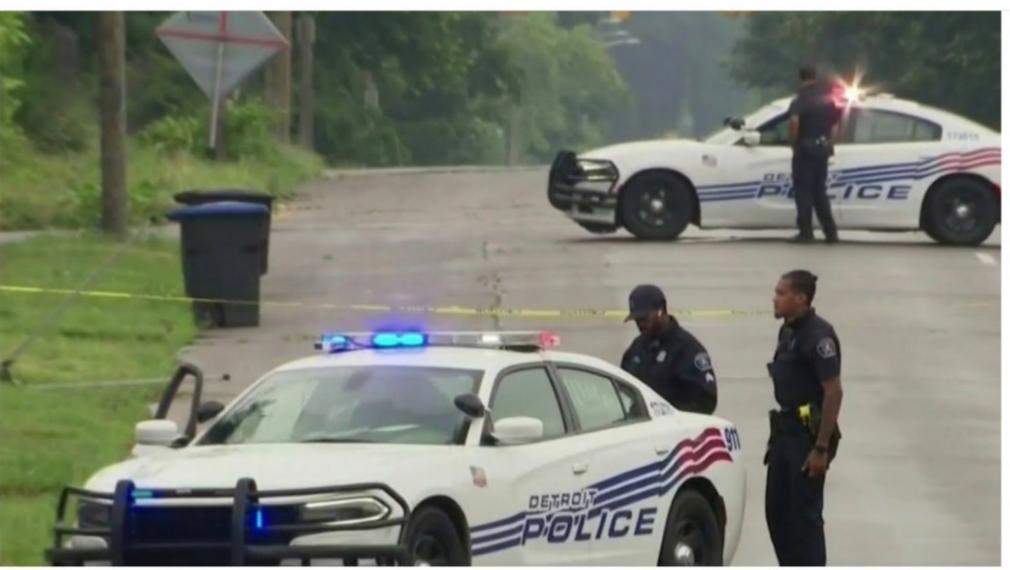


Detroit police officers are receiving a historic new contract that will put their paychecks on par with other cities. The city council unanimously approved the deal and Detroit leaders believe this pay raise will help retain officers and recruit more new hires. This deal goes into place immediately and will increase pay by \$10,000 per year for officers.

LOCAL NEWS

Detroit police officers receive a \$10,000 pay raise

Nov 10, 2022



Detroit police officers are receiving a historic new contract that will put their paychecks on par with other cities.

The city council unanimously approved the deal and Detroit leaders believe this pay raise will help retain officers and recruit more new hires.

This deal goes into place immediately and will increase pay by at least \$10,000 per year for officers.

Detroit put 230 more officers on the streets in 2023

FOX 2

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Weather

More:

Detroit police report surge in officer recruitment due to better pay

By Dave Kinchen and FOX 2 Staff | Published December 27, 2023 10:20pm EST | Detroit Police Department | FOX 2 Detroit | 🖈





We invested in technology, creating one of America's most advanced real-time crime centers



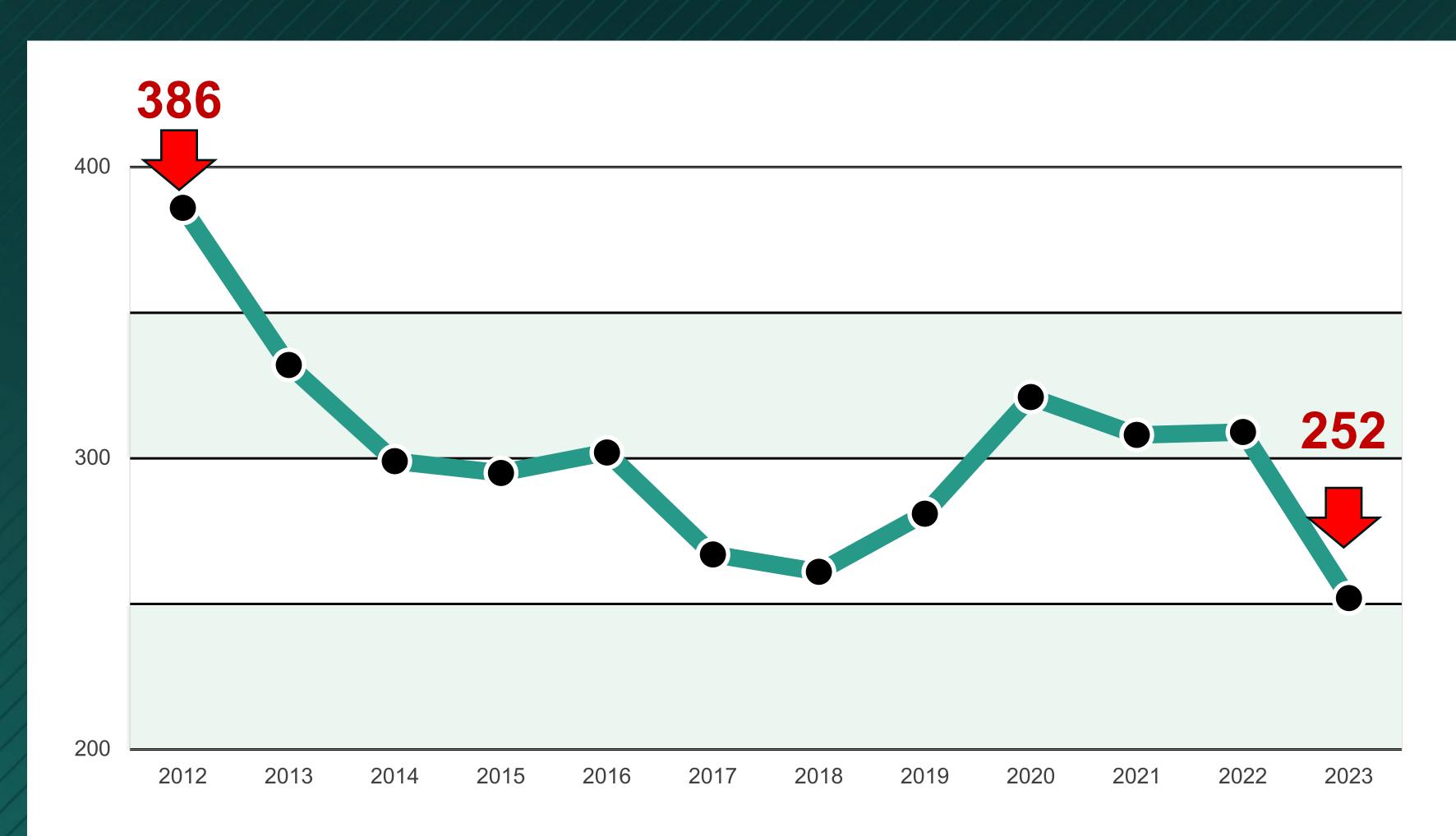
With Strong Federal Partnerships: U.S. Attorney Dawn Ison and federal agencies lead One Detroit



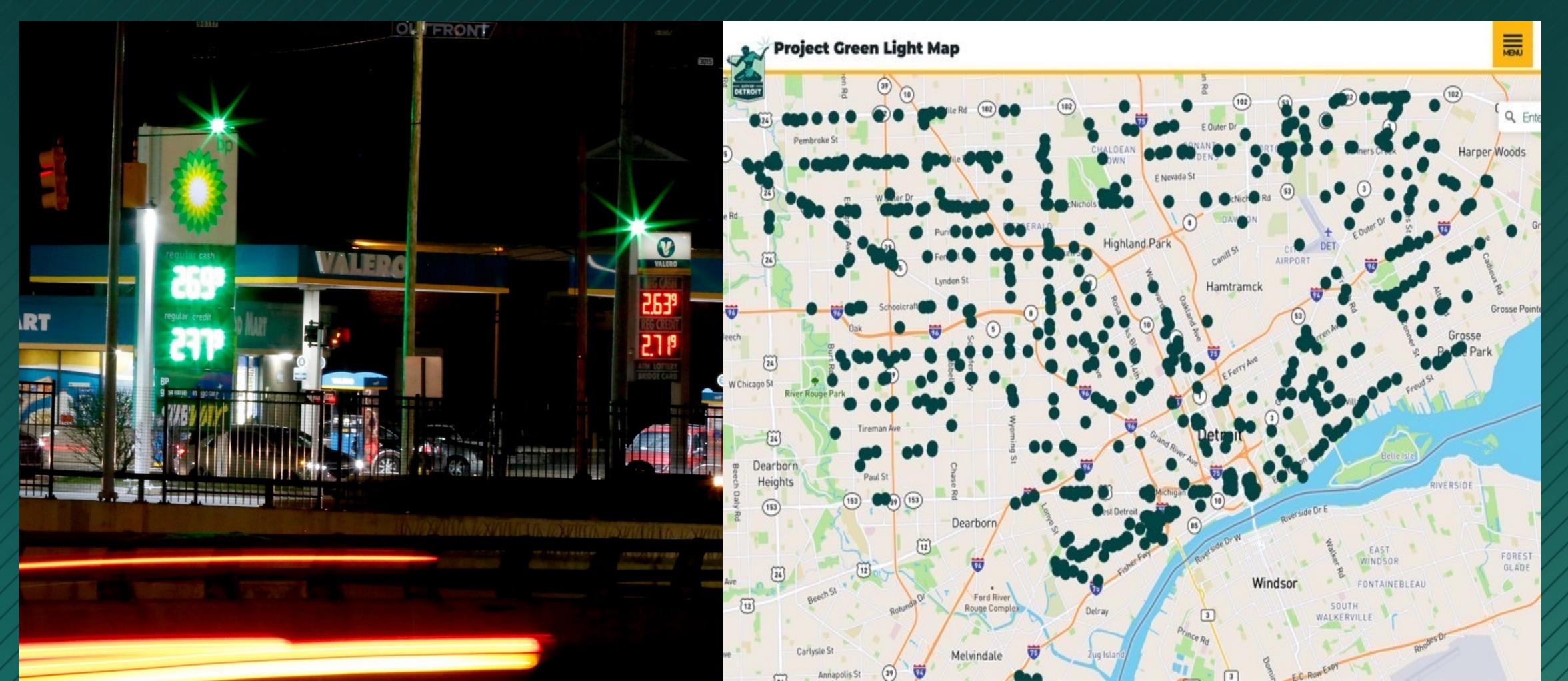
County Executive Warren Evans has led a partnership with the Courts, Prosecutor, Sheriff, and Corrections to cut backlog of gun cases



Homicides dropped from 386 in 2012 to 252 in 2023, the fewest since 1966



We made a commitment to wipe out carjackings: Since 2015, 900 businesses have installed Green Lights



When some businesses were slow to adopt Green Light, neighbor protests demanded it





In 10 years, Detroit has become the national leader in reducing carjackings

Total 2013 Carjackings:

(15 per week)

782

Total 2024 Carjackings (thru 4/16):

27 (2 per week)

The new DPD: A story of a carjacking on March 16

11:42 PM 30-year-old man has 2023 SUV carjacked at gunpoint at Whittier and East Outer Drive

11:51 PM Real-Time Crime Center Green Light camera spotted stolen vehicle traveling on Meyers near West McNichols

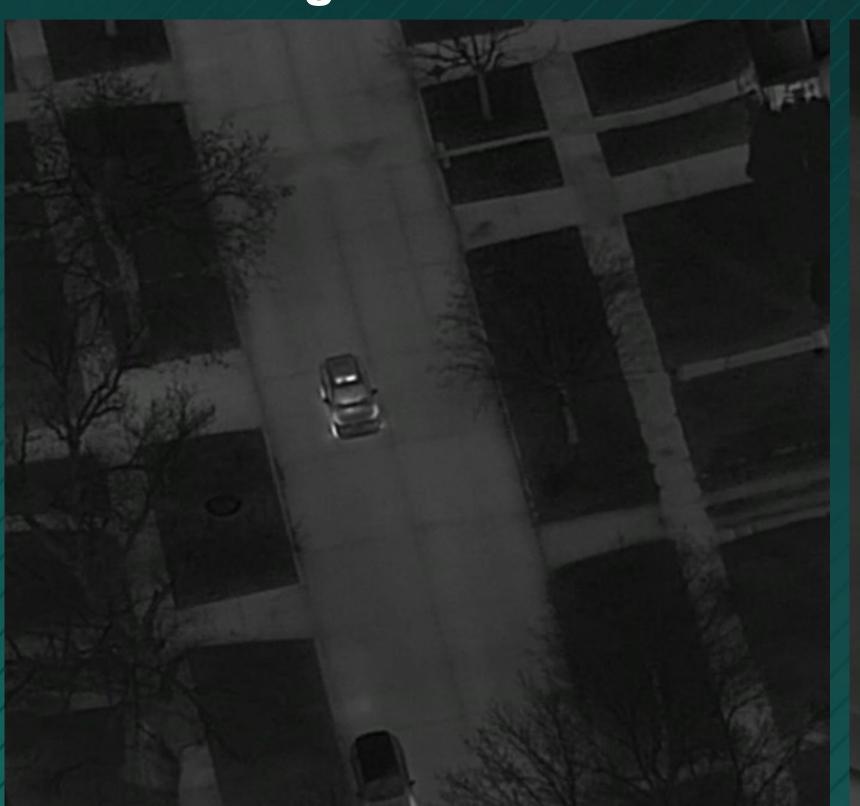


12:30 AM: Car manufacturer began sharing its tracking information – MSP helicopter and 5 DPD takedown units patiently tracked from a distance

Drove west through neighborhoods

Entered the Davison

Stopped near 14th







Multiple DPD units moved in and trapped the car



The suspects attempted to flee, but were arrested and AR-15 semi-automatic recovered



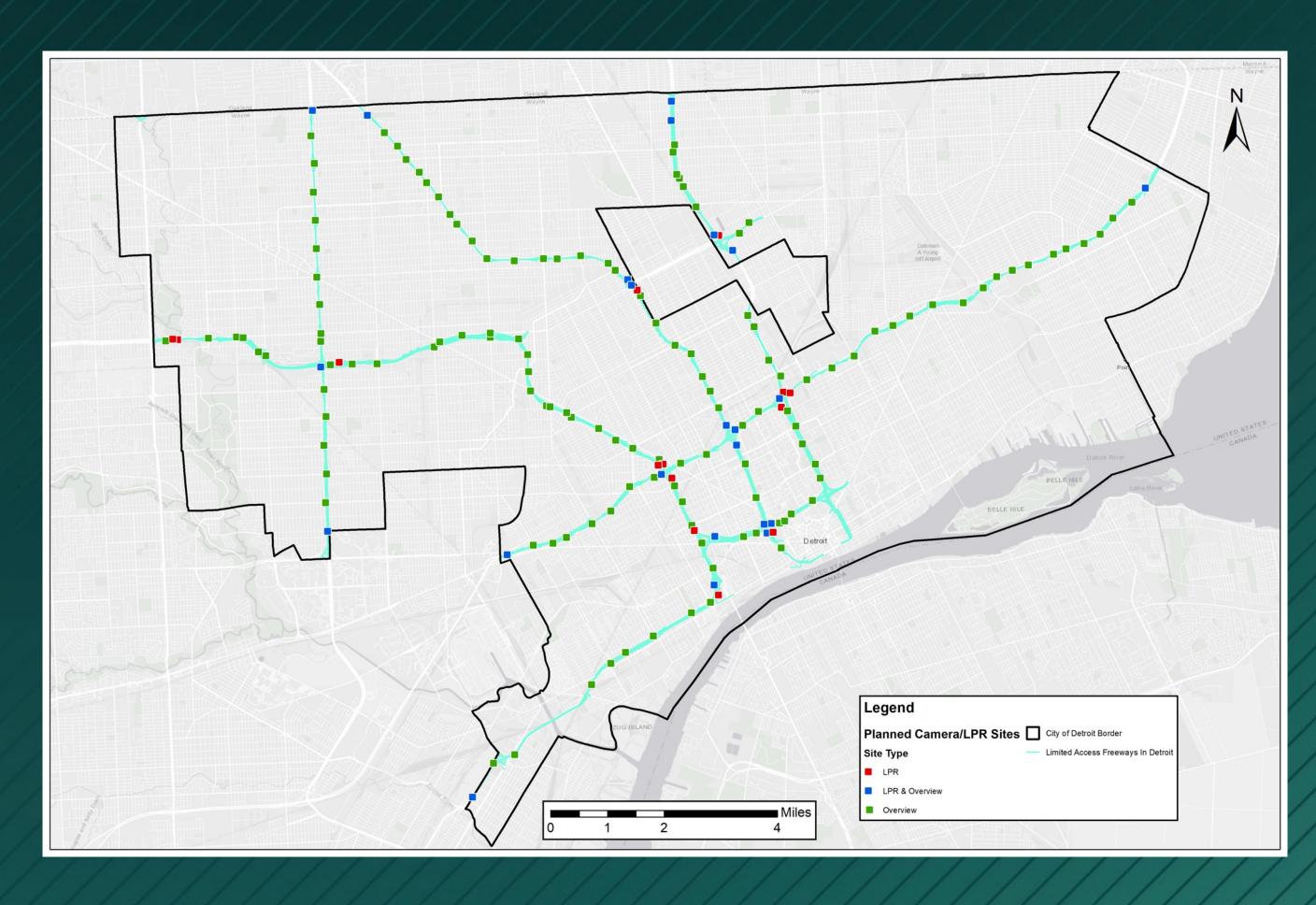
The results?

Within 2 hours of the carjacking, 2 suspects arrested both had previous offenses – one for a weapons charge, the other for car theft

Testing on the recovered AR-15 showed it had been used in an east side drive-by shooting two weeks before

Also ramping up prevention of freeway shootings Installing camera network beginning this summer





Thanks to State of Michigan for \$30-million grant to fund the freeway camera system

FOX 2

Live

Weather

Things to Do

400 cameras coming to Detroit freeways to reduce violent crimes

By Hilary Golston and Jack Nissen | Published November 15, 2023 8:23am EST | Detroit Police Department | FOX 2 Detroit |





Governor Whitmer



Rep Whitsett



Rep Witwer



Senator Anthony



Rep Mueller

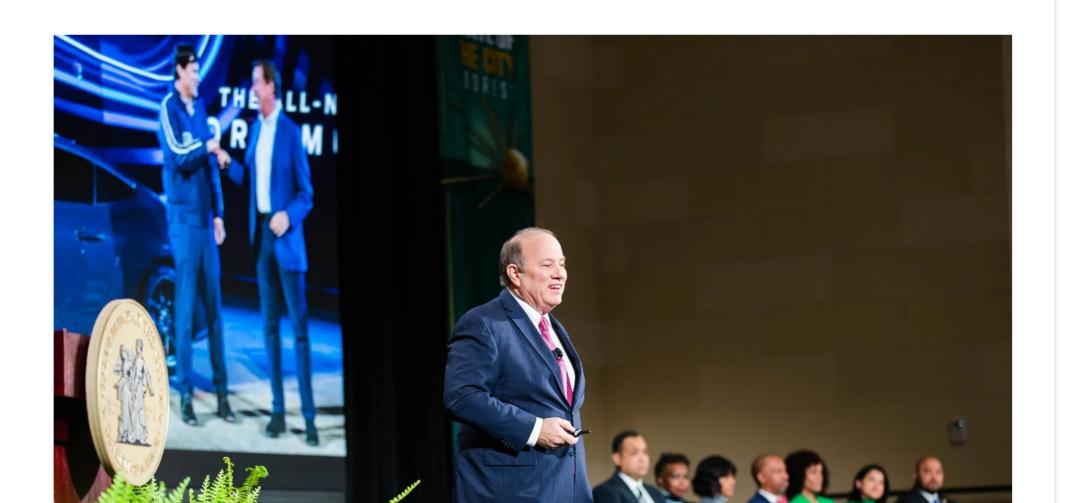
400 cameras on Detroit freeways will help reduce crime, police say

Last year's State of City headline was the new \$10-million community violence prevention funding



Detroit giving out \$10M for community-based gun violence intervention

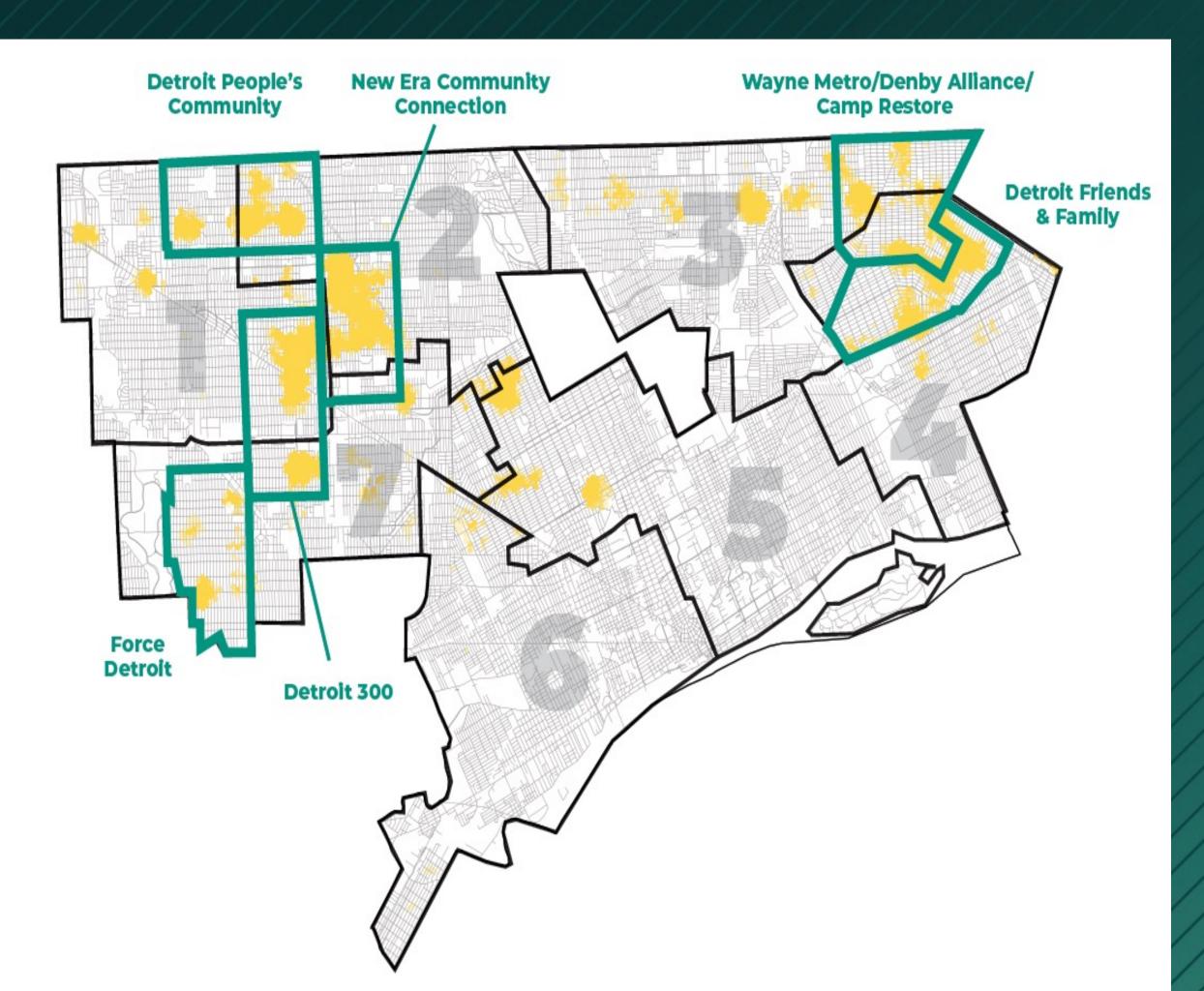




We did what we promised: 6 CVI groups each awarded funding for their own neighborhood through July 2024

Thank you to DM Todd Bettison and Councilman Fred Durhal

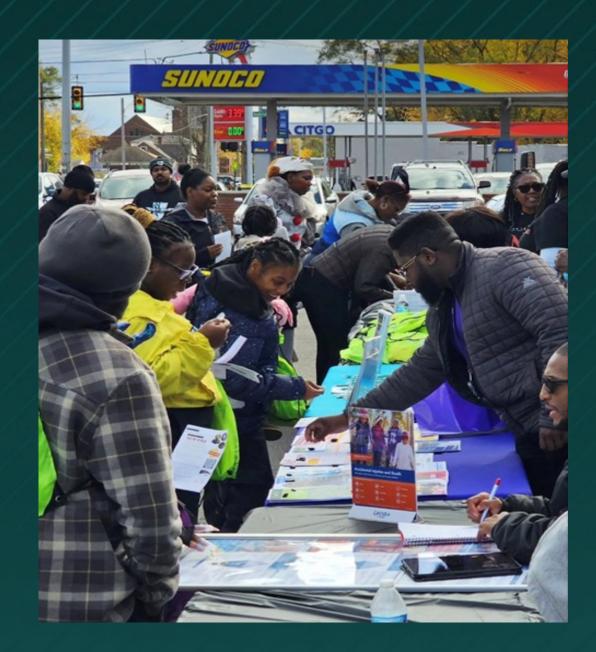




Our 6 activist groups began intense outreach to the community in the fall



Detroit Peoples Community engaging with students at Emerson Elementary-Middle School about conflict resolution



New Era Community Connection, led by Zeek and Kierra Williams, hosted a Mobile Resource Fair with local non-profits



Detroit Friends and Family, led by Ray Winans, talks to Pershing High School students in partnership with rival gang members

The Results for the groups in last 6 Months? Change in YTD homicides/shootings 11/1/23-4/15/24

Detroit outside CVI Zones -28%

Areas of 4 groups focused on direct personal interaction Average change in gun violence

Areas of 2 groups focused on community patrol

Average change in gun violence

-44% Contracts extended 1 year to 7/31/25

-13%

Contracts extended 3 months to 10/31/24

Detroit's unique Community Violence program is drawing national attention

Federal Program Pays Grassroots Groups in Detroit to Curb Violence







Digital Daily

ShotStoppers: Detroit's Community-Led Game Changer to Curb Gun Violence



In an audacious push towards reform, the City of Detroit has shifted its gaze onto its community heroes, channeling \$700,000 in grants to six local organizations via the freshly minted initiative, ShotStoppers. At the core of this

Detroit's success is national: Chief James White called to White House to share Detroit's strategies with other cities

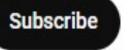


Detroit Police Chief James White talks crime reduction at White House



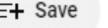
Detroit police Chief James White meets with President Joe Biden











Can the strong partnership between Detroit police and our community activists keep reducing the crime rate?

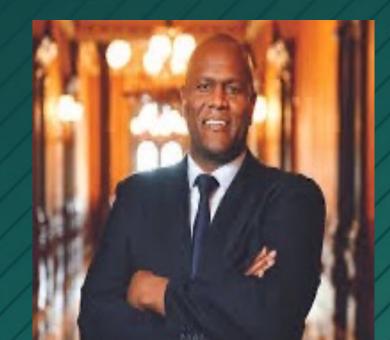
2023 Crime Results

2024 (Through 4/16/24)

Homicides -18%
Shootings -16%
Carjackings -35%

Homicides -27%
Shootings -23%
Carjackings -45%

To continue these trends, we will need a State Public Safety Trust Fund – Thank you to Speaker Joe Tate and Rep Farhat





Having a 10-year vision was critical for Detroit Promise Children of Detroit families have college tuition guaranteed - forever

Four-Year College Tuition: \$62,472*

With Detroit Promise? \$0!



*State of Michigan College Tuition Average Cost.

The Detroit Promise: Tuition guaranteed to 32 Michigan universities and community colleges for any student:

- 1) Lives in Detroit and
- 2) Graduates from any high school in Detroit

	Standard Tuition	Detroit Promise
WCCCD (2 years)	\$ 7,730	\$0
Central Michigan (4 years	\$60,000	\$0
Univ. of Michigan (4 years	\$80,000	\$0

2008 Michigan law authorized Promise Zones for high school grads...but Detroit failed to act

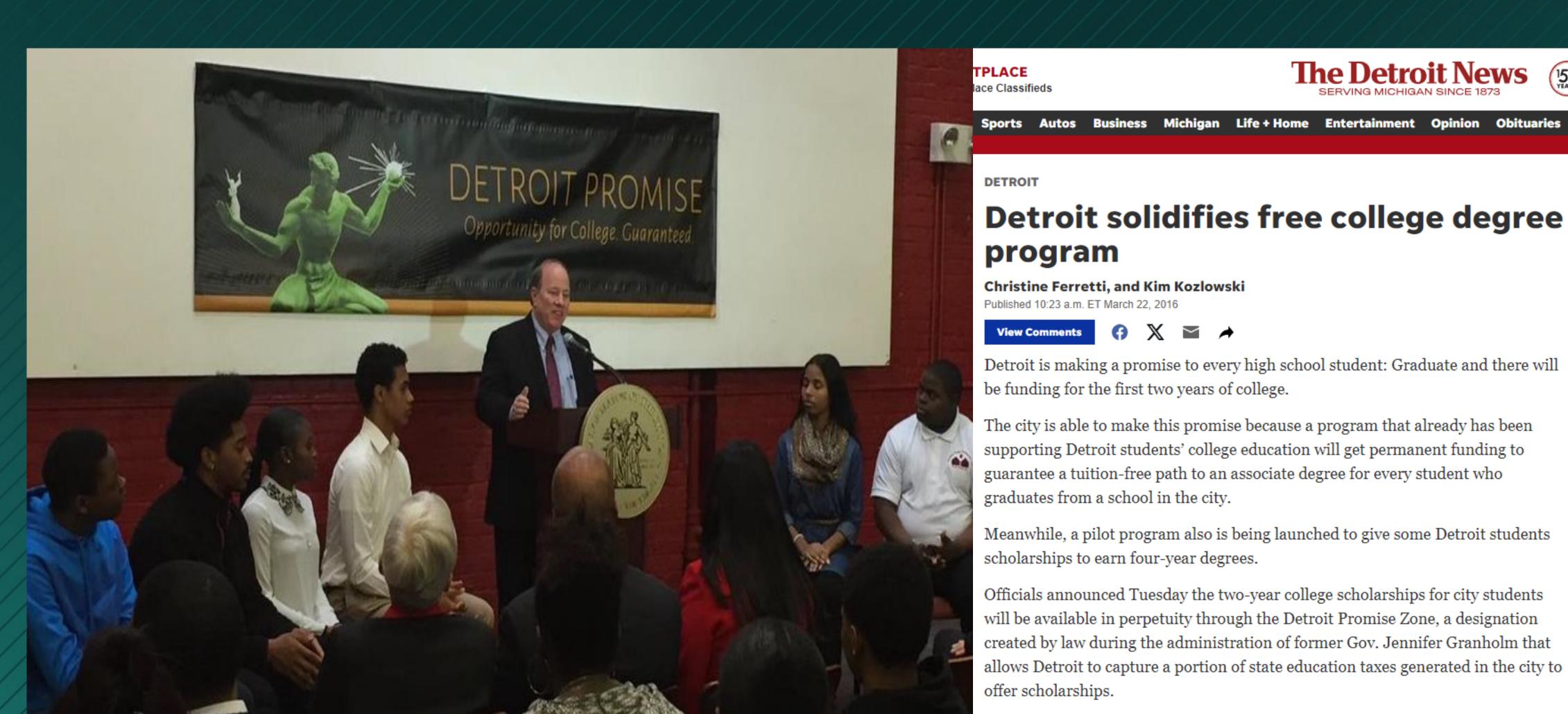
Cities with rising property values could do a tax capture to pay for college scholarships

A small part of growth in future property tax revenues could be captured and placed in a Detroit scholarship fund

But Detroit had no growth - our property values were declining – and Detroit children were left behind

Until 2016

In 2016, I believed Detroit property values had hit bottom – so we created a Promise Zone



To start getting our tax capture in 2020, we first needed to raise private money for 2017-2019

Thank you to Sandy Baruah, the Chamber, and MEEF



So how much scholarship money are we raising?

Annual tax capture raised each year now going into Detroit Students College Scholarship Fund

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2020 $ 1.3 Million
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2022 \$ 2.8 Million

2024 \$ 6.3 Million

2027 (proj) \$ 10 Million

Pensole Lewis College, Michigan's only HBCU, just opened its design campus on the Riverfront



MSU is opening a new health and education research center in Detroit



WSU is expanding its offerings – beautiful new Center for the Performing Arts



UD Mercy: \$100-million renovation, with expanded nursing and engineering facilities



UM's \$200-Million Center for Innovation is being built now on Grand River – Thank you Stephen Ross!



Nearly 2,000 Detroit students now enrolled in 32 colleges and universities







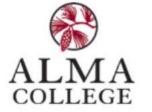


























































No matter what age your child is, you can have a conversation today about college



A city built on a long-term vision would take a leadership role in fighting climate change

The Greenhouse Effect

Most of the heat is absorbed by greenhouse gases and then radiated in all directions, warming the Earth



Detroit is not escaping the impact of climate change

Climate change is here, and **Detroit is flooding**

To help the city cope with heavier downpours, residents are pushing for upgrades to storm drainage and sewer systems.









(Photo credit: daveynin / CC BY 2.0)

How many 500-year floods must Detroit endure in a decade?

Detroit's flooding problem needs long-term climate solutions.



Our plan: convert 127 municipal buildings from fossil-based energy to solar energy

Thank you to Scott Benson and Green Task Force







In 2016, Detroit opened first solar field along I-96 Economics weren't cost effective



2022 Inflation Reduction Act cut Detroit's costs of solar 30% Could convert Detroit's 127 buildings to solar at cost competitive with \$8 million annually paid to DTE



In June, we offered neighborhoods chance to apply Our goal: 6 solar fields in 250 acres

Detroit mayor seeks to create solar farms to combat blight, power city buildings



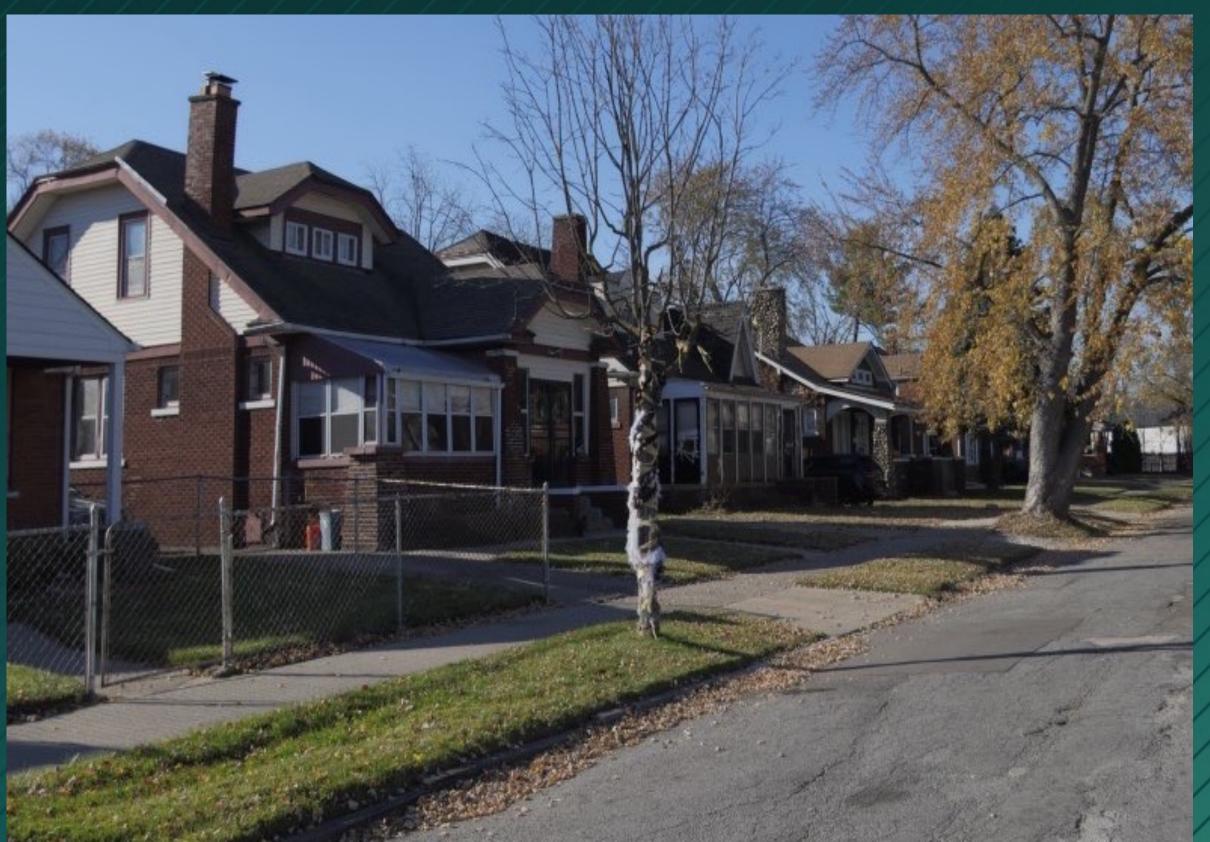
Wednesday night, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan is scheduled to layout his plan to create solar farms in qualifying Detroit neighborhoods.

We have neighborhoods where people love their homes, but feel hopeless because of the total blight nearby

Put solar field here

And pay for home repairs in the blocks next door





This is a chance for Detroiters to imagine a different future for their neighborhood

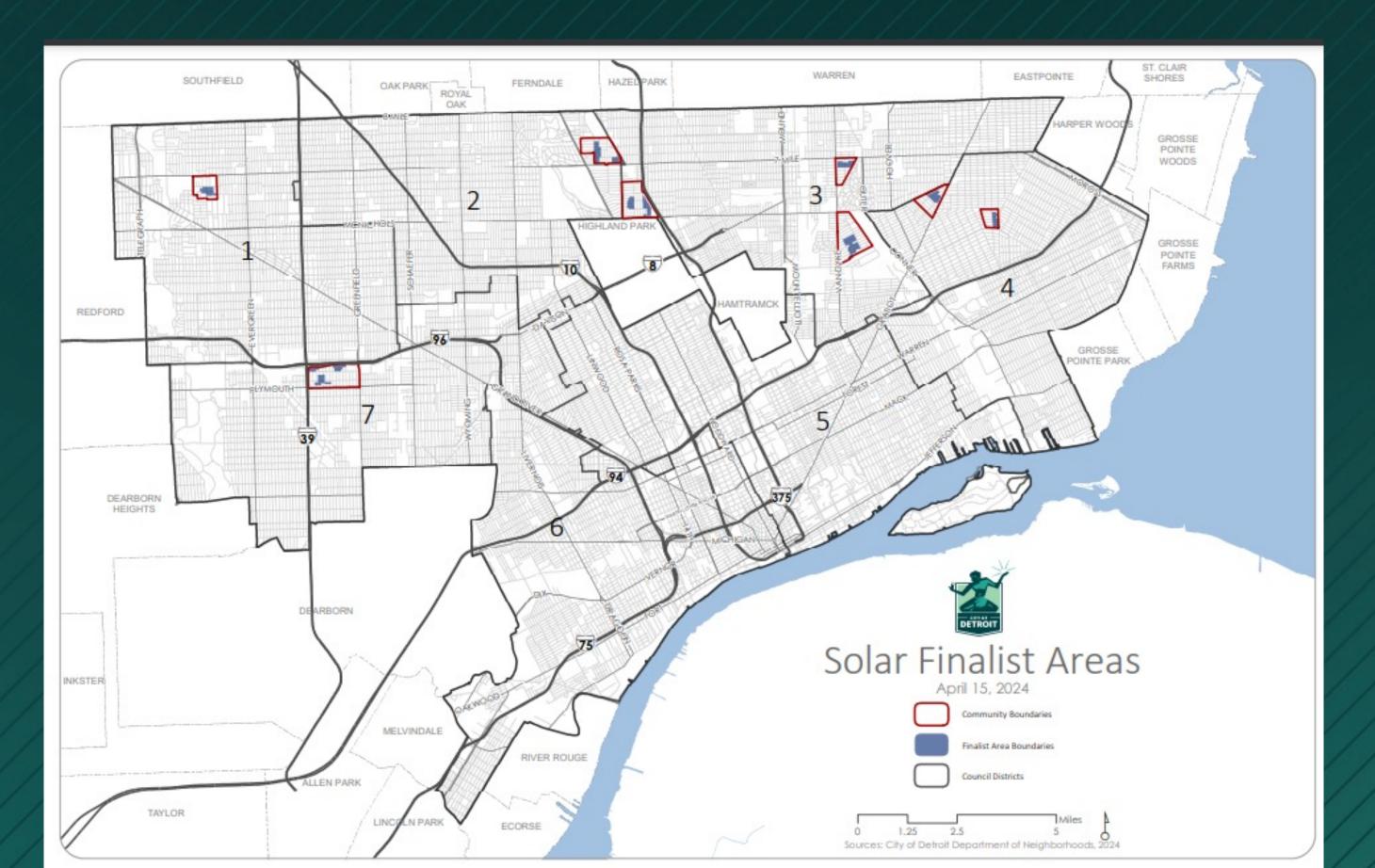
No one will be forced to sell the home they live in

Owner-occupied houses get twice fair market value – minimum of \$90,000 per home – we will only take the house if the homeowner agrees

Landlords and vacant land-owners get fair market value

Renters get 18 months free rent, plus moving costs

For those staying in the adjoining neighborhood: minimum of \$15,000 in home repairs 8 neighborhood groups have made the finals



We now have 8 neighborhood finalists – here's their story

What happens now:

May: Send first 3 winning neighborhoods to City Council

May: Send contracts for 2 solar companies to City Council – each do half the fields

Early 2025: Select next 3 winning neighborhoods

2026 option: Select 2 more neighborhoods to power city streetlights

No area of the city benefits more from a long-term vision than building affordable housing and reducing homelessness





As property values and rents rise, Detroit could have become like many other cities







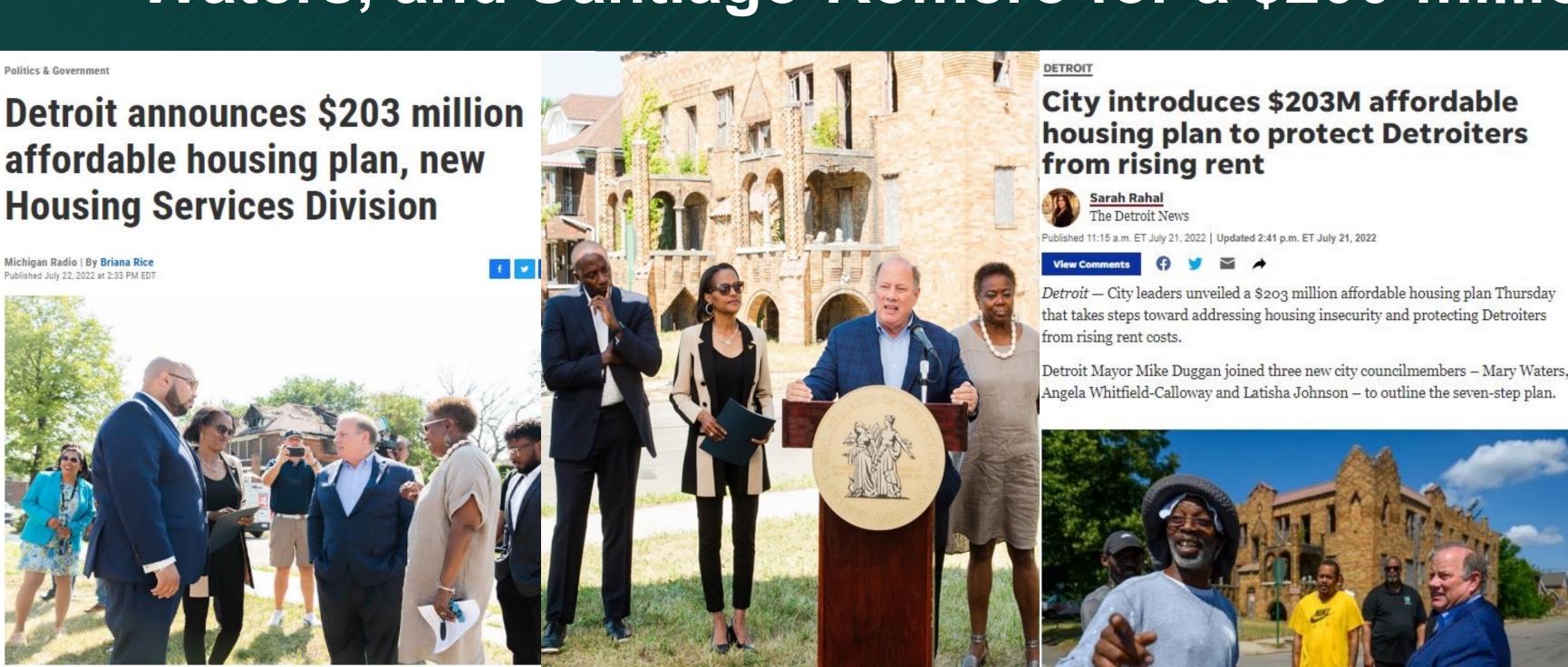






But in Detroit, Council and the Mayor have united for affordable housing

Special thanks to Council Members Johnson, Calloway Waters, and Santiago-Romero for a \$200-million package



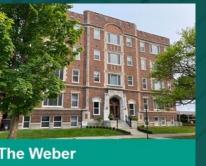






The Shirley

























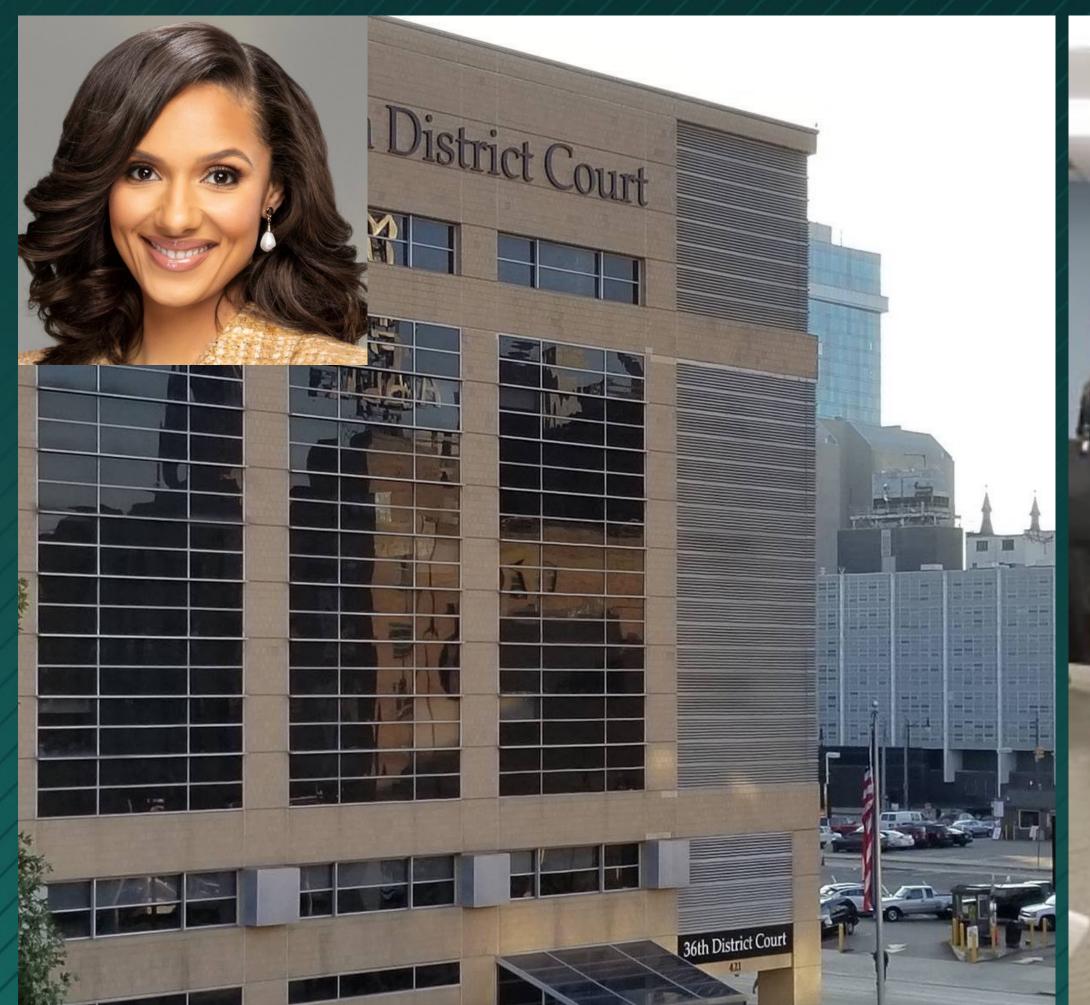






West Boston Apts

Council President Mary Sheffield sponsored a program for legal representation for low-income tenants facing eviction



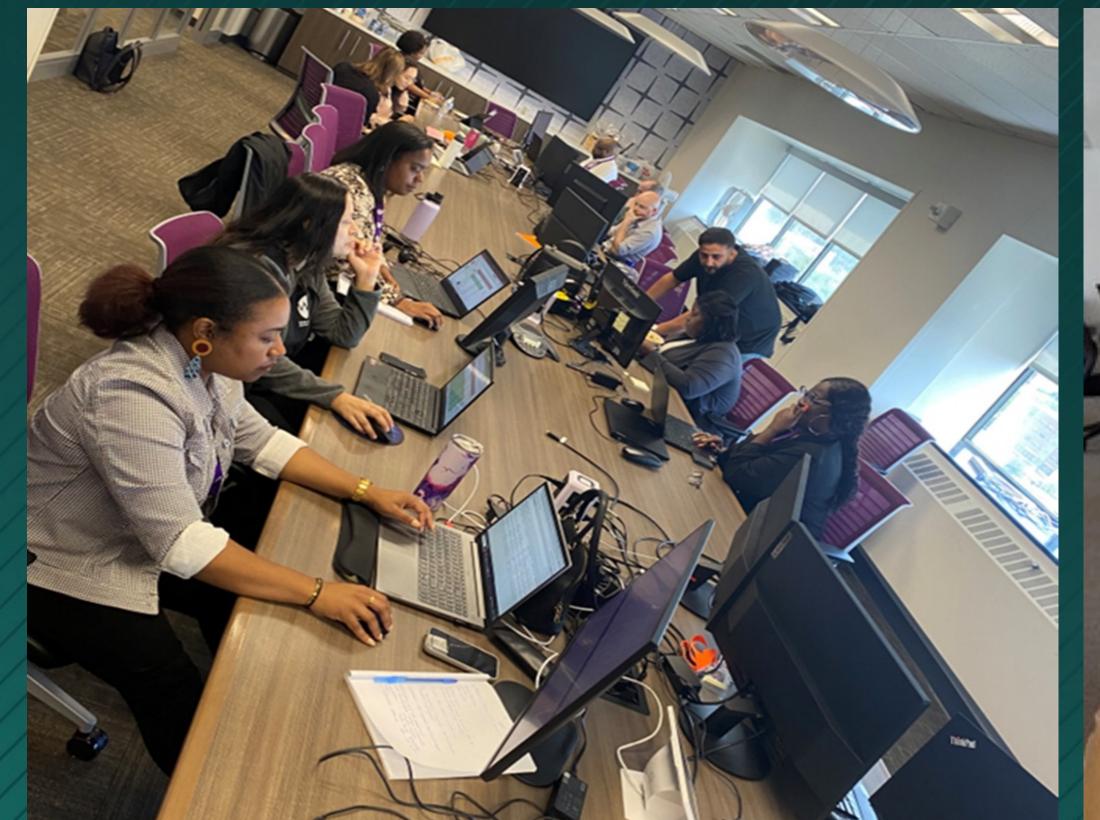


Our outstanding homeless service providers in the Hand Network reach out to the homeless on the streets



Detroit's New Housing Services Team has placed more than 750 families in permanent housing Need assistance for housing?

Call the Help Line: 866-313-2520





After 10 years of progress, national media now recognizes Detroit as one of America's leaders in reducing homelessness





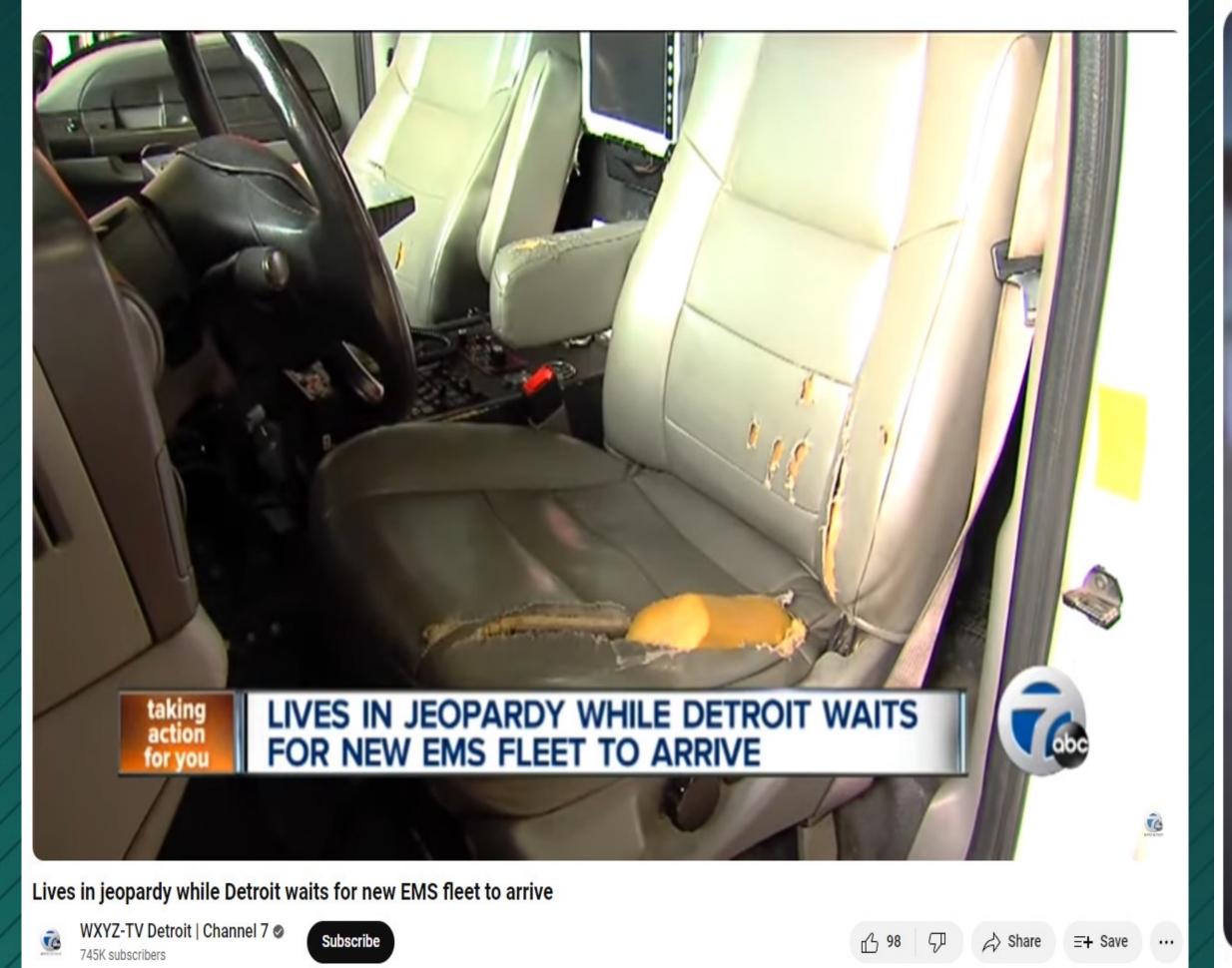


The Road to Ending Homelessness: Detroit in Driver's Seat

Here's what else a long-term vision can do: Build a first-class Fire Department



In 2013, Detroit was down to 8 operating ambulances – 911 response was often over an hour





Roger Penske and others had to give Detroit \$8 million to buy new ambulances and police cars

Dayton Daily News

Donors give \$8 million for Detroit EMS units, police cars

NATION & WORLD

By none

March 25, 2013

Businesses have pledged of emergency vehicles, in

DETROIT

Penske donates \$8 million to provide 100 ambulances, police vehicles in Detroit

Updated: Mar. 25, 2013, 2:33 p.m. Published: Mar. 25, 2013, 1:33 p.m.

≡ ∰TheWorld

Business, Economics and Jobs

Companies give Detroit \$8M to buy new ambulances and police cars

GlobalPost

March 25, 2013 · 12:07 PM EL

By Samantha Stainburn

DETROIT MAYOR DAVE BING DAVE-BING DETROIT POLITICS

Roger Penske, Other Business Leaders, Donate \$8 Million For Detroit EMS Rigs, Police Cruisers

Detroit Mayor Announces GOOD News



Today, Detroit has 42 ambulances and 33 medically-staffed fire trucks on the street





Our career firefighters agreed to be cross-trained for medical runs













Detroit firefighters cross-trained, taking medical runs

Christine Ferretti The Detroit News

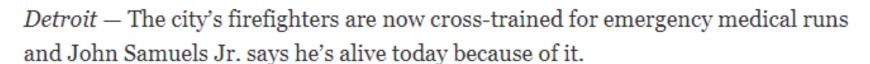
Published 1:40 p.m. ET March 30, 2017











Samuels went into cardiac arrest while napping on the couch of his Detroit home after church on Christmas Day. Soon after, a 911 operator directed his wife to administer CPR and a life-saving team of emergency medical technicians and firefighter first responders took it from there.

"I never thought it would be me as a recipient of it," said Samuels, a 59-year-old electrician who is trained in CPR. "Now I know what CPR can do. It worked for me."

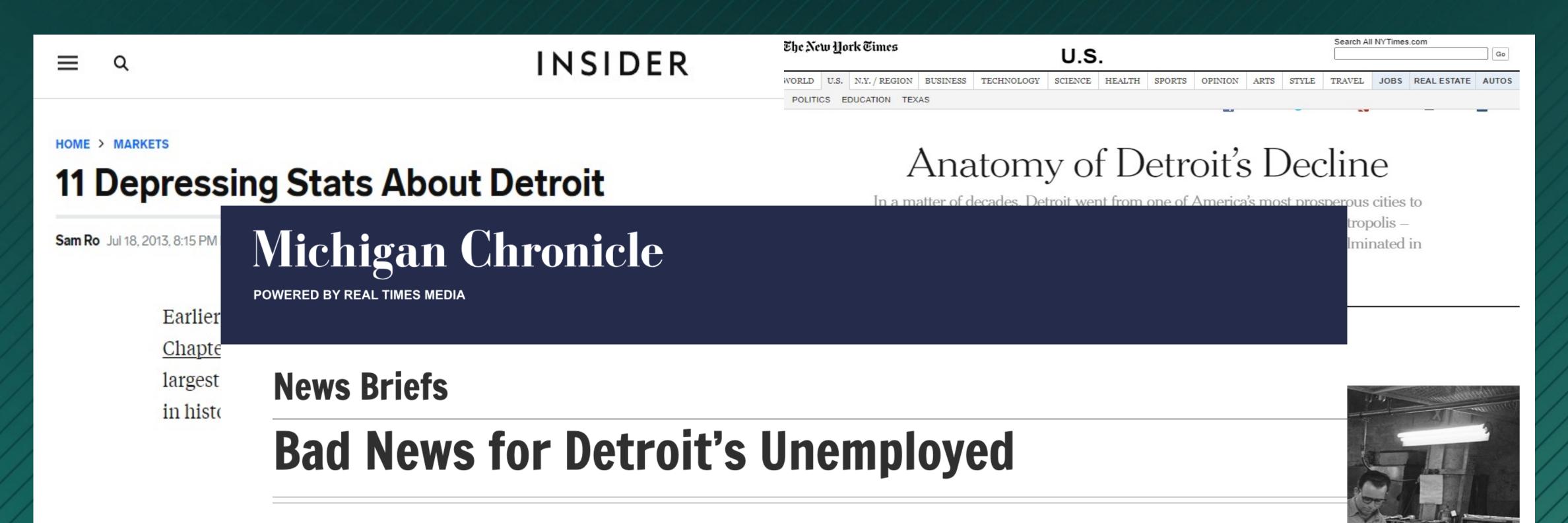
Samuels detailed the efforts that saved his life during a Thursday news conference with Mayor Mike Duggan and Detroit fire officials marking the completion of a two-year process that has all of Detroit's 871 fire personnel trained to handle medical runs.



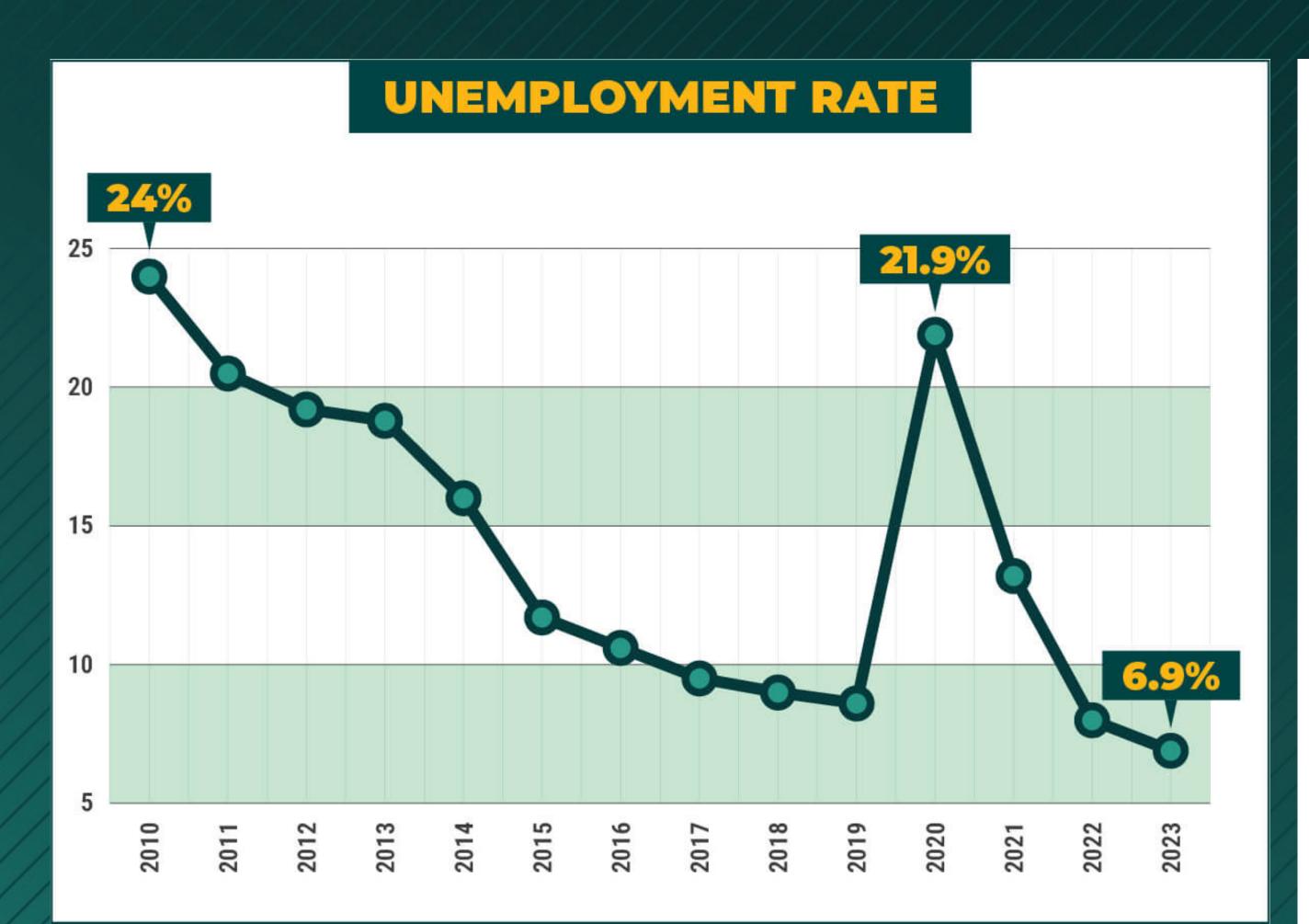
Detroit's average 911 response time of 7 mins 30 seconds is now beating national standard



We have made a 10-year commitment to make sure Detroiters get the jobs coming back to our city In 2013, Detroit had an 18% unemployment rate – the worst in the United States



With all the new companies we attracted, the unemployment rate dropped to 7% last year



Data: Detroit unemployment rate drops to lowest point in 23 years

A look at the city's unemployment rates since 2000, amid pandemic



A hiring sign is displayed at a restaurant in Mount Prospect, Ill., Sunday, March 19, 2023. (AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh) (Nam Y. Huh, Copyright 2023 The Associated Press. All rights reserved.)

There are jobs today for every Detroiter looking to work



Detroit at Work has \$100 million in scholarships to raise the skills of Detroiters



\$100 million in adult scholarships available for Detroit residents' job training

By Dave Kinchen | Published January 30, 2023 11:46pm EST | Detroit | FOX 2 Detroit | 🕕



200 Detroiters paid to earn their high school degree 800 more currently enrolled



Our Skills for Life employees spend 3 days a week cleaning the worst blight in the city



They spend 2 days a week being paid to learn skills for better paying jobs: some of our Skills for Life Graduates



Detroit at Work placed 120 call center operators at JP Morgan Chase, making \$24 an hour plus benefits





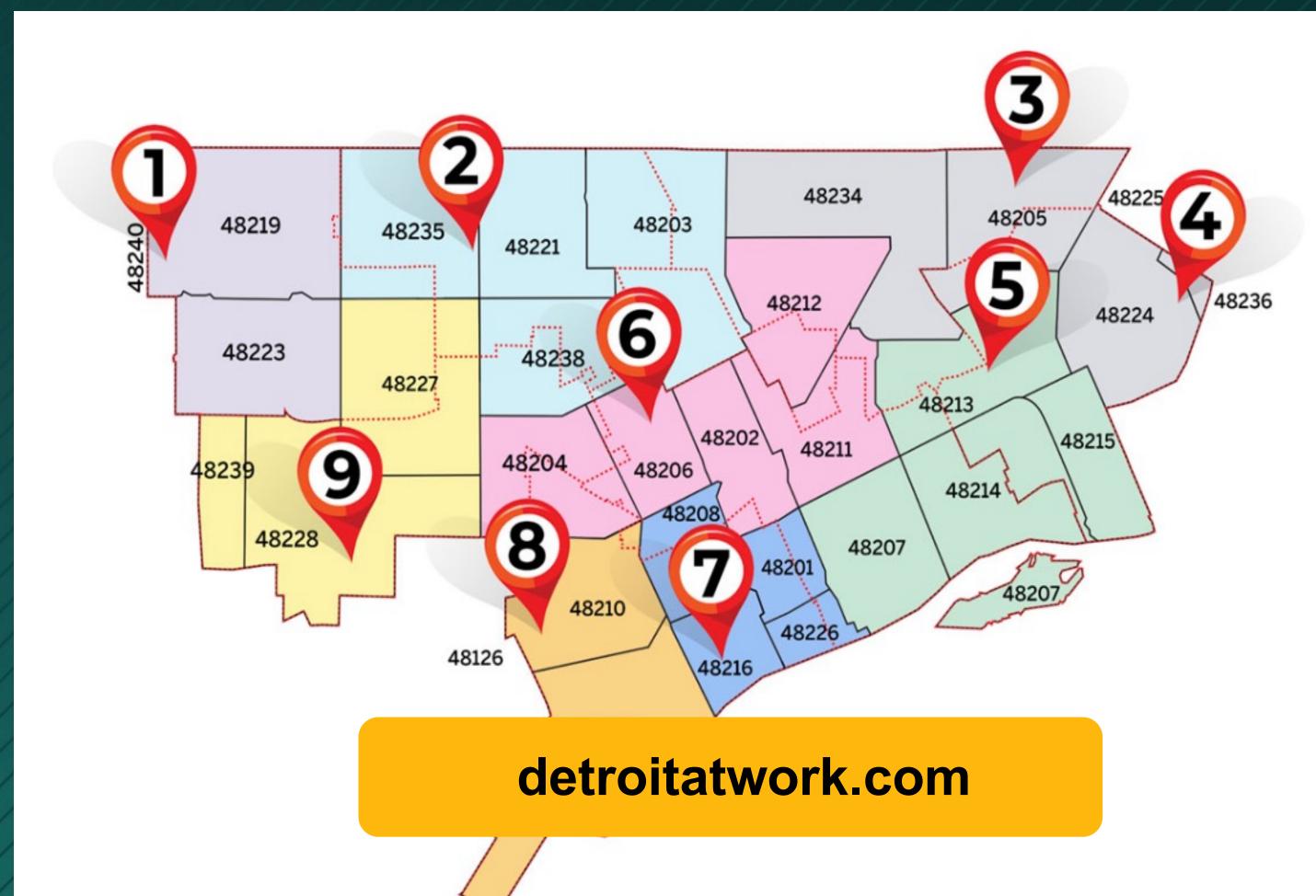
3,300 Detroiters in 50+ Training Programs Earning Credentials and Higher Wages

Thank you to Council Members Mary Waters and Coleman Young II





Find your new job or training program today – at 9 Detroit At Work offices





Even after 10 years, we have critical needs to address in 2024 – especially the bus system

Crain's Forum

'I wanted to cry': Detroiters at their wits' end with 'cantankerous' DDOT bus service hobbled by chronic driver shortages

By Annalise Frank



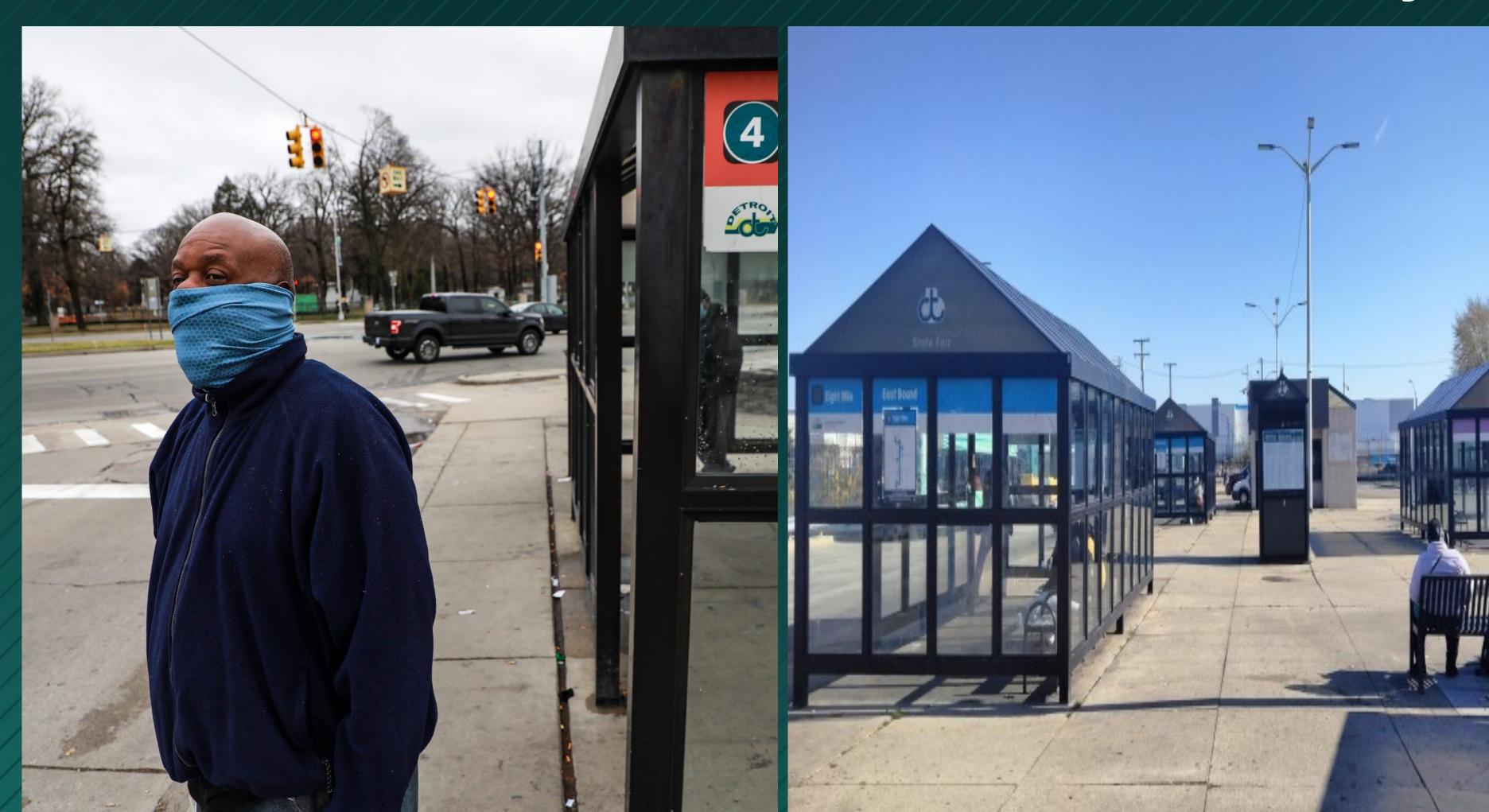
In the last year, we've hired 140 new drivers Raised pay \$3 an hour



More buses on the road – from 129 to 159 this Spring Up to 188 buses in daily pullout this Fall



The thousands of riders who now wait outside at 8 Mile and Woodward for transfers every day



Will wait in comfort inside at the new Jason Hargrove Transit Center next month



2024 is the year we finally rid Detroit neighborhoods of abandoned and illegal vehicles



20 Municipal Parking officers are now ticketing inoperable or unlicensed cars on the street The sticker gives you 48 hours to move your vehicle



And for vehicles on private property?



DPD has a new 12-person enforcement squad

Two priorities on private property:

- 1) Multiple vehicles stored on the lawn
- 2) Commercial vehicles stored on residential property

Property owners have two weeks to remove ticketed vehicles from private property





Enforcing City code when multiple cars are stored on lawns



You can't store commercial vehicles in residential neighborhoods





Or entire fleets of commercial vehicles

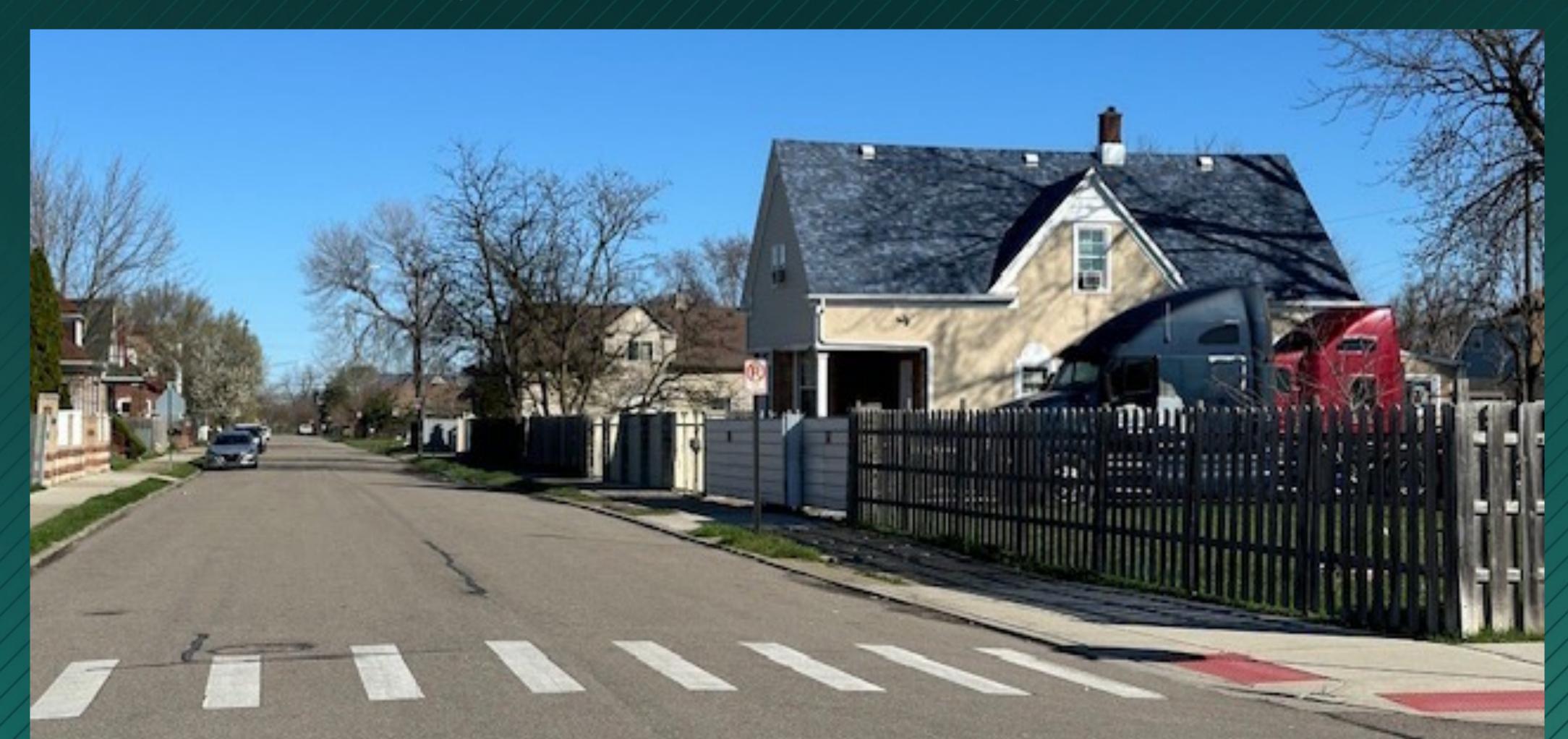


Can't store semis in residential neighborhoods





Can't store illegal vehicles in residential areas even if you build a fence at your house



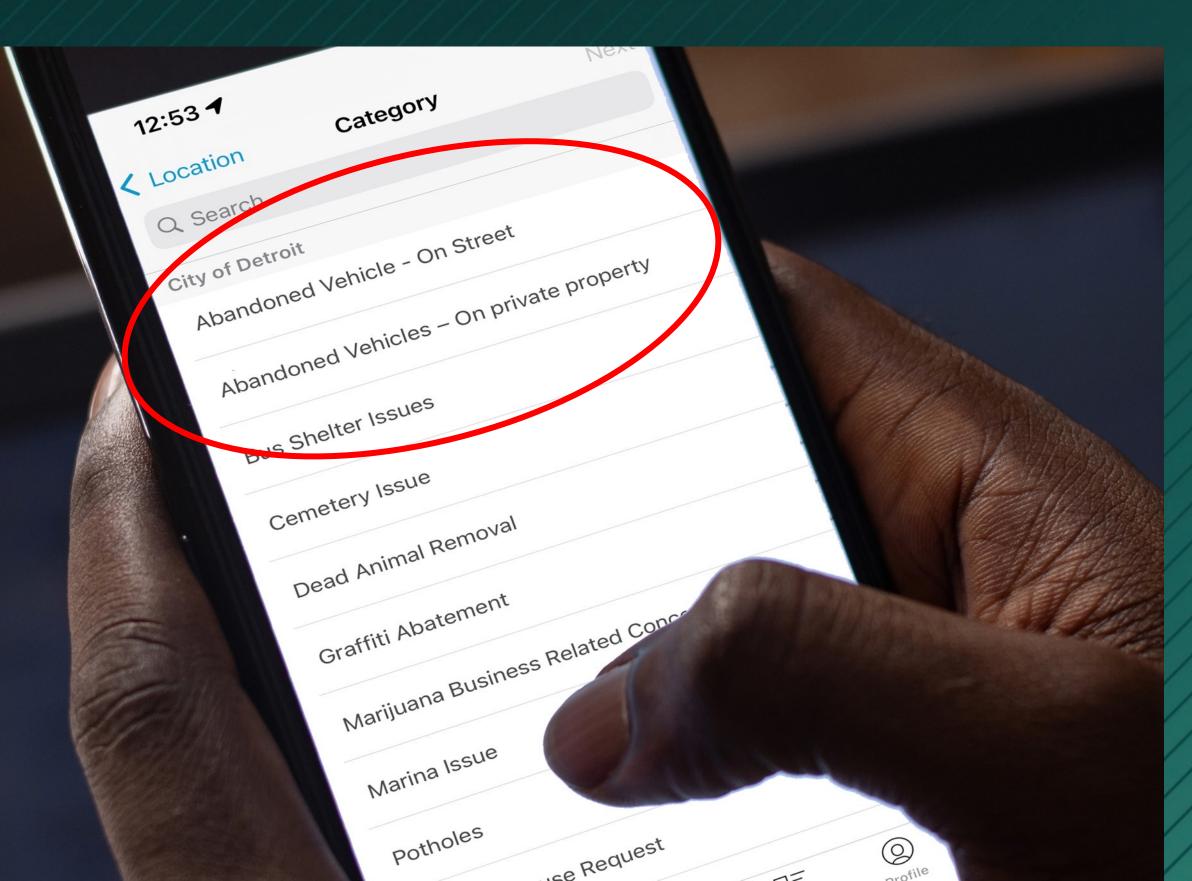
So far in 2024, ticketed 5,208 vehicles in neighborhoods We've only had to tow 769 – 85% were moved by owner



Inoperable vehicles on your street or your neighbor turned the back yard into junk car storage?

Report them right now on Improve Detroit app





Many communities that helped build Detroit during 323-year history are well commemorated in the city



French
Cadillac and Richard



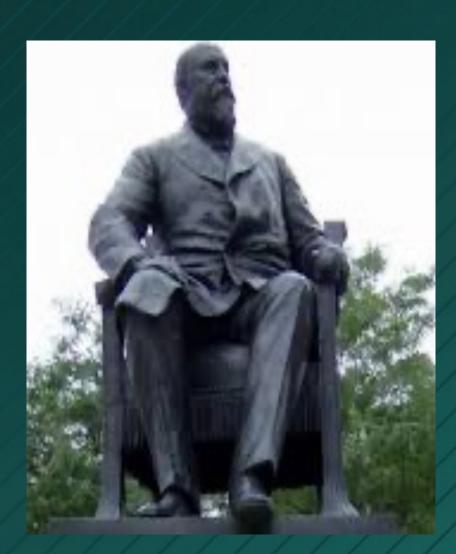
Irish Father Kern



Polish Gen Kosciuszko

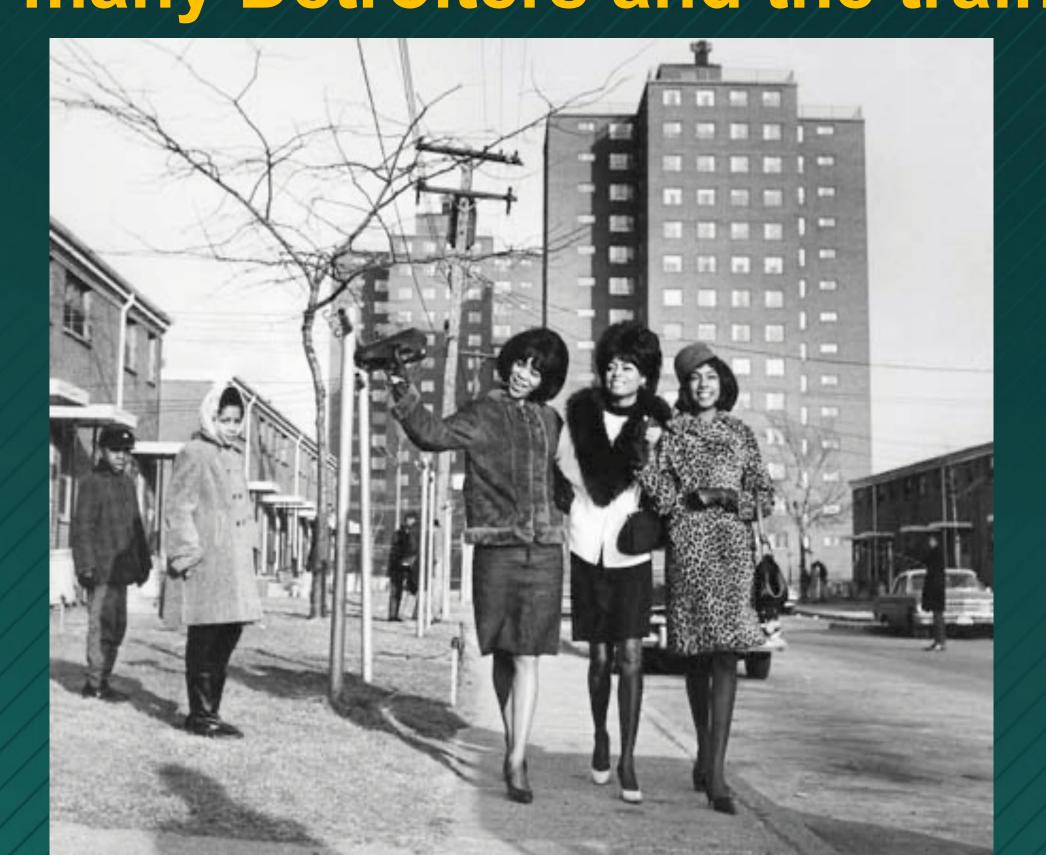


Armenian Father Vartabed



German American Hazen Pingree

In 2024, we'll make the same commitment to honoring Detroit's Black History Brewster Rec Center was the childhood center of many Detroiters and the training gym for Joe Louis



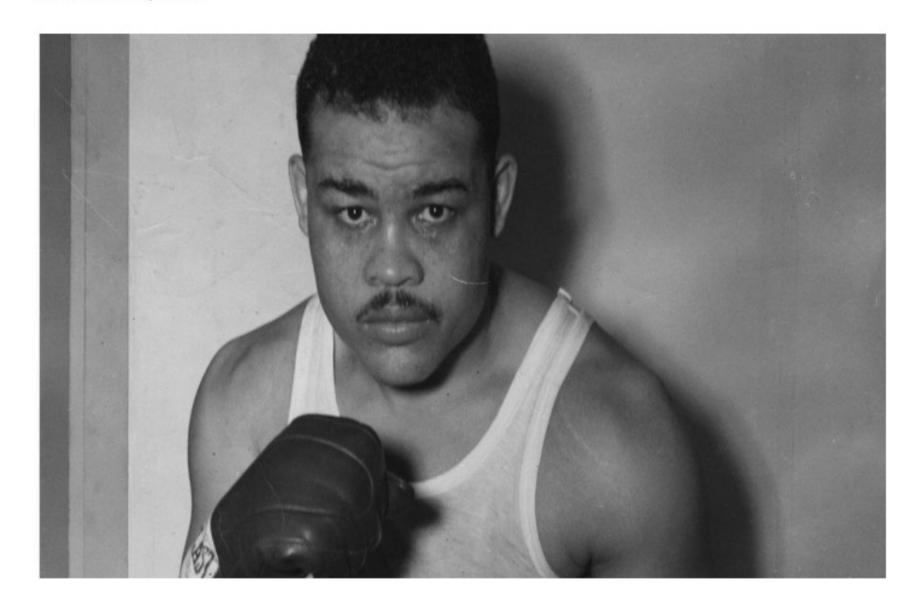


In 2006, Brewster was closed and abandoned - and scheduled for demolition



Report: Joe Louis' old boxing gym up for demolition in Detroit

SI WIRE • AUG 5, 2014









The Detroit recreation center where Joe Louis once trained is listed for demolition.



With the help of MHT and Bishop Charles Ellis, the center is being restored – including Joe Louis' training ring





In September 1925, a mob attempted to drive Dr. Ossian Sweet's family from home on Garland

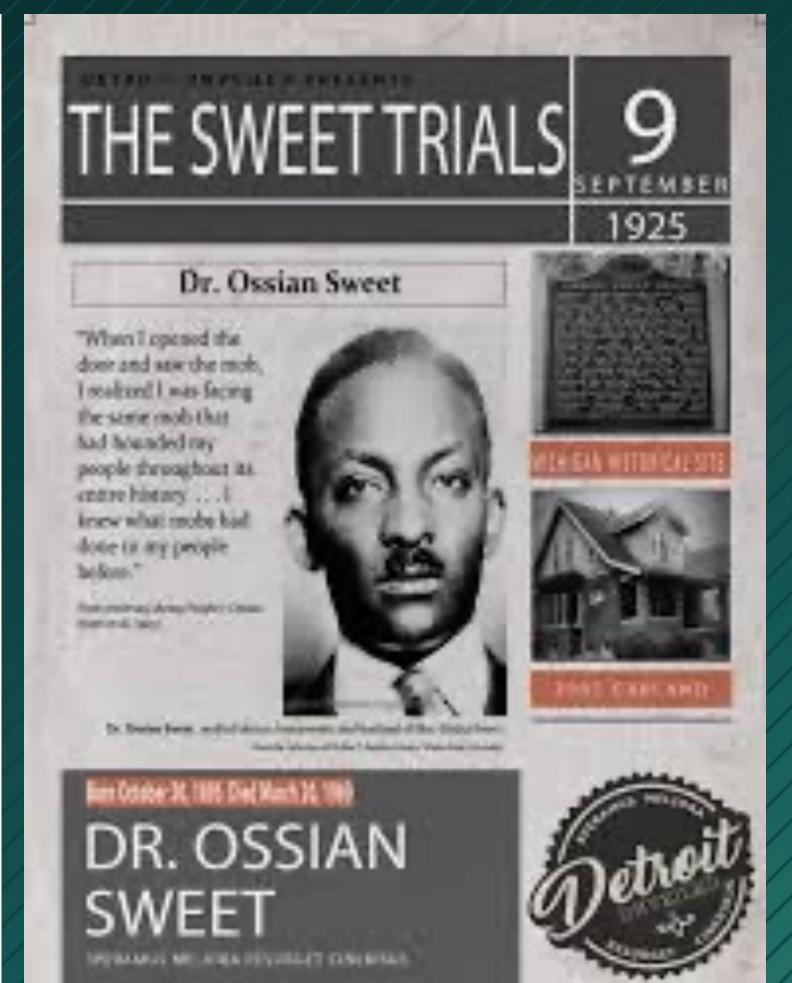
ADVANCE NOTICE: BRIEFS

On this day in 1925: Man killed during mob attack on Black physician's Detroit home

BY: KEN COLEMAN - SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 5:43 AM







The jury's acquittal of Henry Sweet had a national impact on housing segregation

HENRY SWEET ACQUITTED IN MURDER TRIAL

Court Crowd Warned Against Outbreak; Jury Out Three and Half Hours.

TOMS IS UNDECIDED
ON REMAINING CASES

Practice Forbearance to Remove Prejudice.

A verdict of not guilty was returned in Judge Frank Murphy's court at 5:15 p. m., Thursday, in the case of Henry Sweet, charged with complicity in the slaying of Leon E. Breiner, fatally shot last September during a race disturbance in front of 2905 Garland avenue.

Whether the acquittal will mean

Sweet Trials (1925 & 1926)



If I thought any of you had any opinion about the guilt of my clients, I wouldn't worry, because that might be changed. What I'm worried about is prejudice. They are harder to change. They come with your mother's milk and stick like the color of the skin. I know that if these defendants had been a white group defending themselves from a colored mob, they never would have been arrested or tried. My clients are charged with murder, but they are really charged with being black. --Clarence Darrow, 11/24/25.

The automobile and manufacturing boom that began in Detroit about 1915 made the city a magnet for African-Americans fleeing the economic stagnation of the South. In the decade from 1915 to 1925, Detroit's black population grew more than tenfold, from 7,000 to 82,000. A severe housing shortage developed, as the city's compact black district could not accommodate all the new arrivals.

African-Americans brave enough to purchase or rent homes in previously all-white neighborhoods faced intimidation and violence. The spring and summer of 1925 saw several ugly housing-related incidents. In April.

The Sweet House is now being historically restored with the Baxters Homes across the street are being restored to 1925 appearance Thank you to Council member Latisha Johnson



Creating an historic destination worthy of these major events



Before the Civil War, Detroit played a crucial role in the Underground Railroad



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ABOUT US

DETROIT HISTORICAL MUSEUM

DOSSIN GREAT LAKES MUSEUM

THINGS TO DO

COLLECTIONS

MEMBERSHIP

WAYS TO GIVE

Home > Detroit Historical Museum > Exhibitions > Signature Exhibitions > Doorway to Freedom – Detroit and the Underground Railroad

Plan Your Visit

Museum Events

Exhibitions

Signature Exhibitions

Changing Exhibitions

Traveling Exhibitions

Rentals

The Hustle

DOORWAY TO FREEDOM – DETROIT AND THE UNDERGROUND RAILROAD



Detroit was a pivotal part of the Underground Railroad, an informal network of safe houses and people willing to help runaway enslaved people. They adapted the language of the railroads to keep it secret. Hiding places — often taverns, homes and barns — were referred to as "stations." Helpers were called "conductors," and runaways were either "passengers" or "baggage." From our many cultural and religious organizations to the numerous historic markers that have been dedicated over the years, the city has always been at the forefront of acknowledging the people, places and events that helped us earn the reputation as the *Doorway to Freedom*.

Detroit's unique geographical location, coupled with its radicalized black community and abolitionist sympathizers made the city a prime crossing location for freedom seekers. Code named "Midnight" by Underground Railroad "conductors," the city provided access to Canada across the Detroit River.

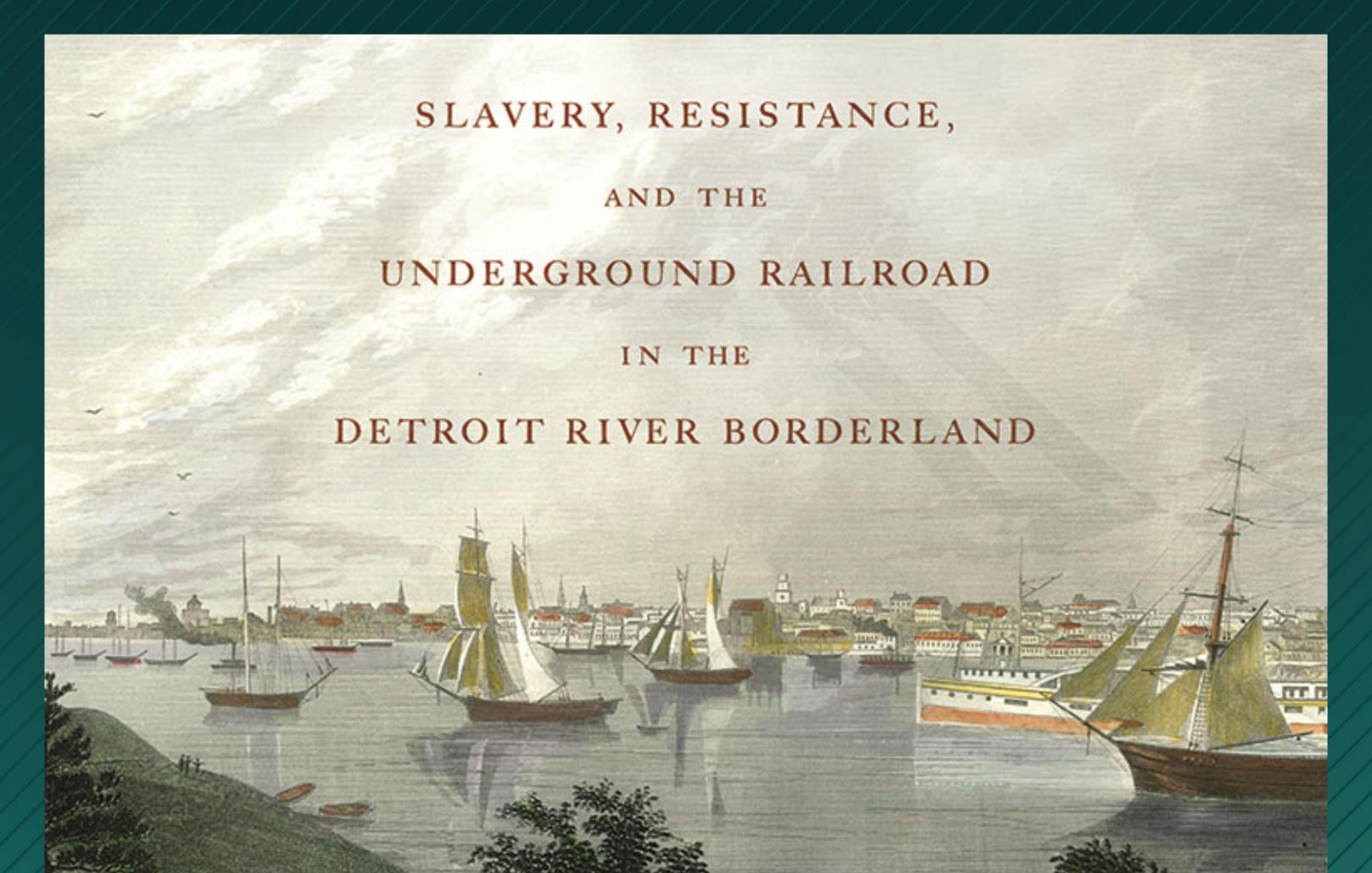
After the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, which required that enslaved

Detroit and The Undergroup people be returned to their owners by Federal law, Canada became the ultimate goal for many freedom seekers and Detroit became the "doorway to freedom."

DOORWAY
TO FREEDOM
Detroit and The Underground Railroad

Visitana amanda da distinata anno in this amandad ambibit. The first all amanda da atau anta the sath of the sa

Escaped slaves on the railroad were guided to the Detroit River and escaped to Canada by boat



That site, known as Freedom Point, is located behind the current location of WCCCD

Rev. Wendell Anthony and Dr. Curtis Ivery have launched a campaign to honor the stories of those brave men and women







Detroit's future always comes back to the neighborhoods







The Midwest neighborhood borders a declining trucking and industrial corridor



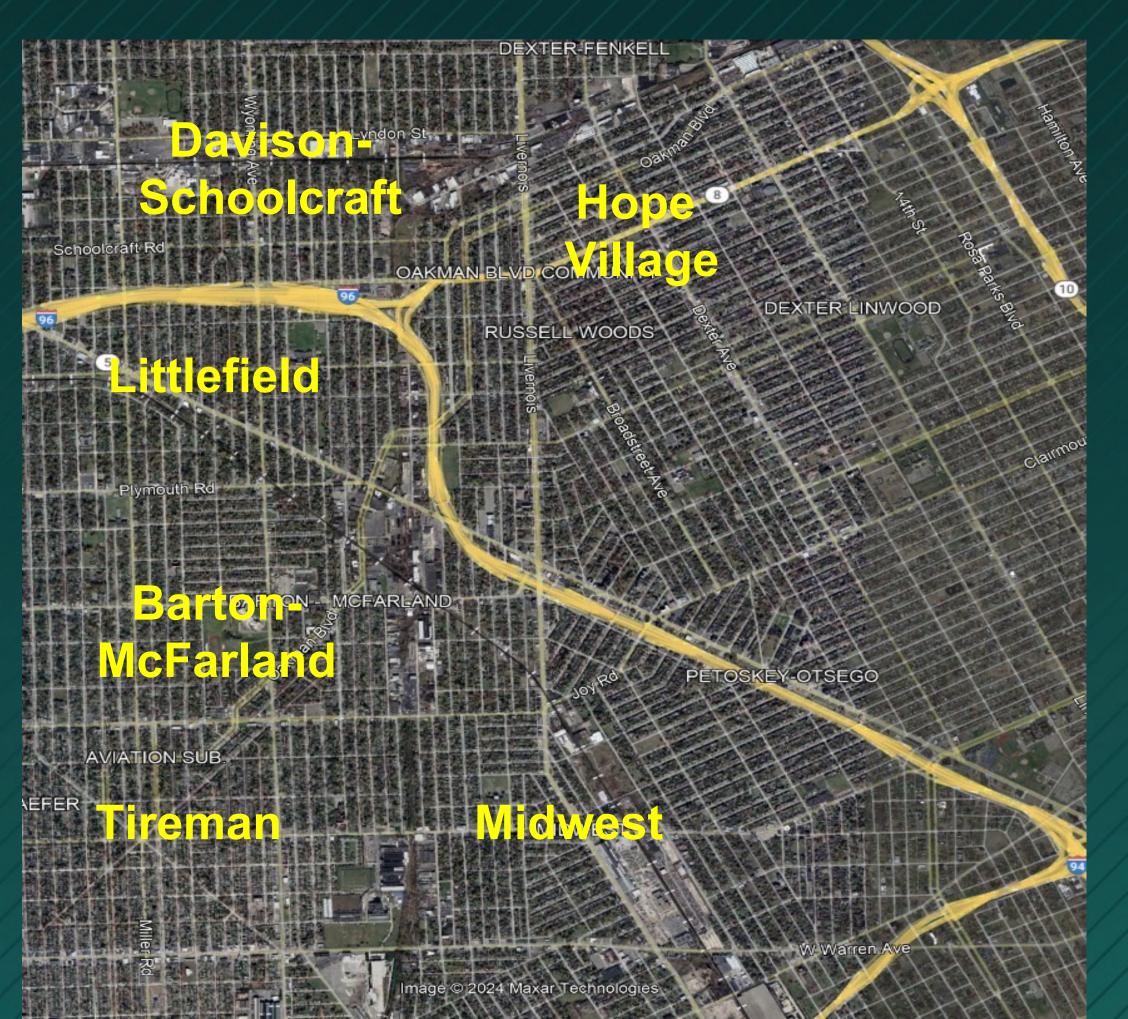
The view from their neighborhood looked like this



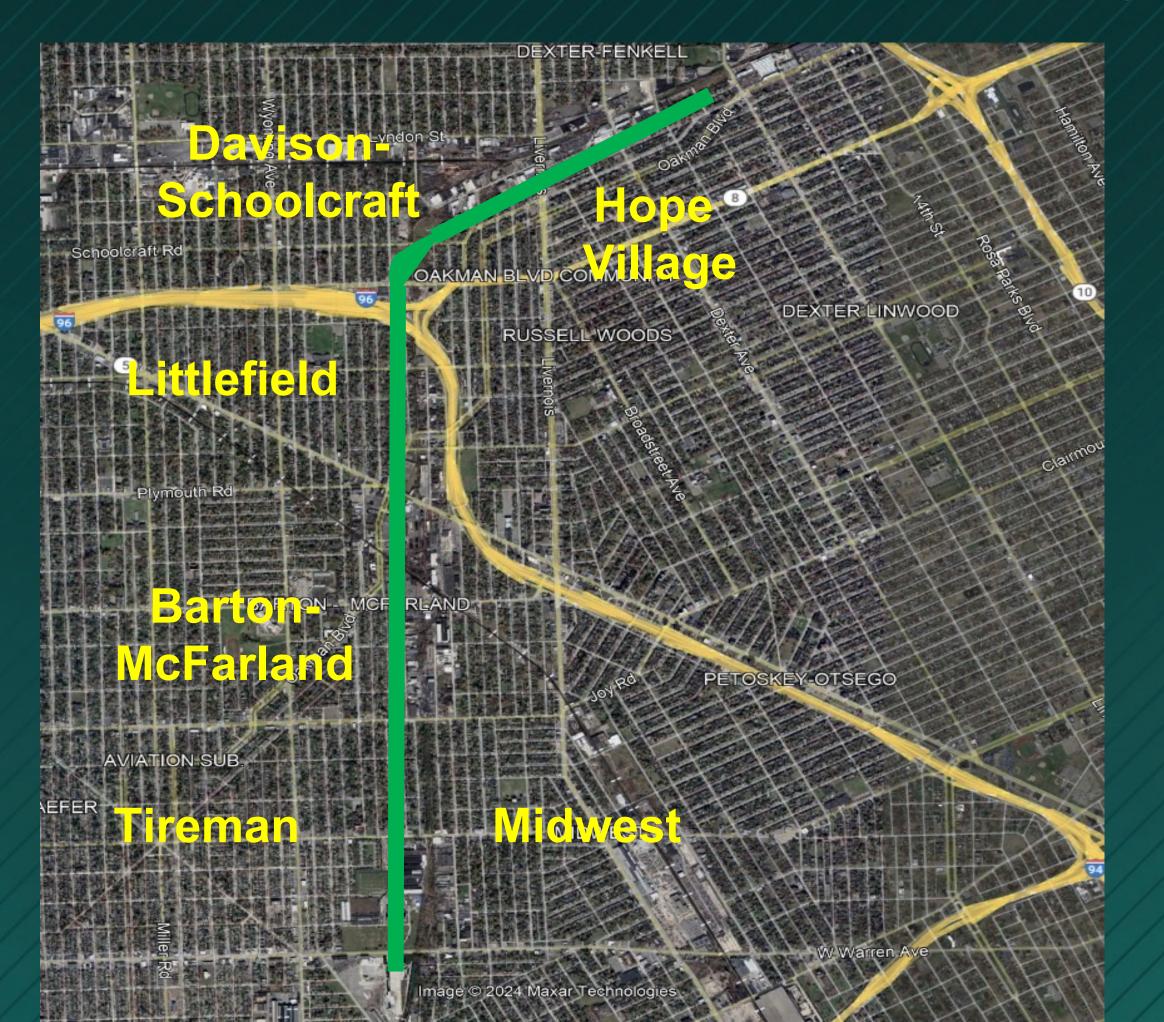
Beautiful homes in Barton-McFarland bordered declining industrial property



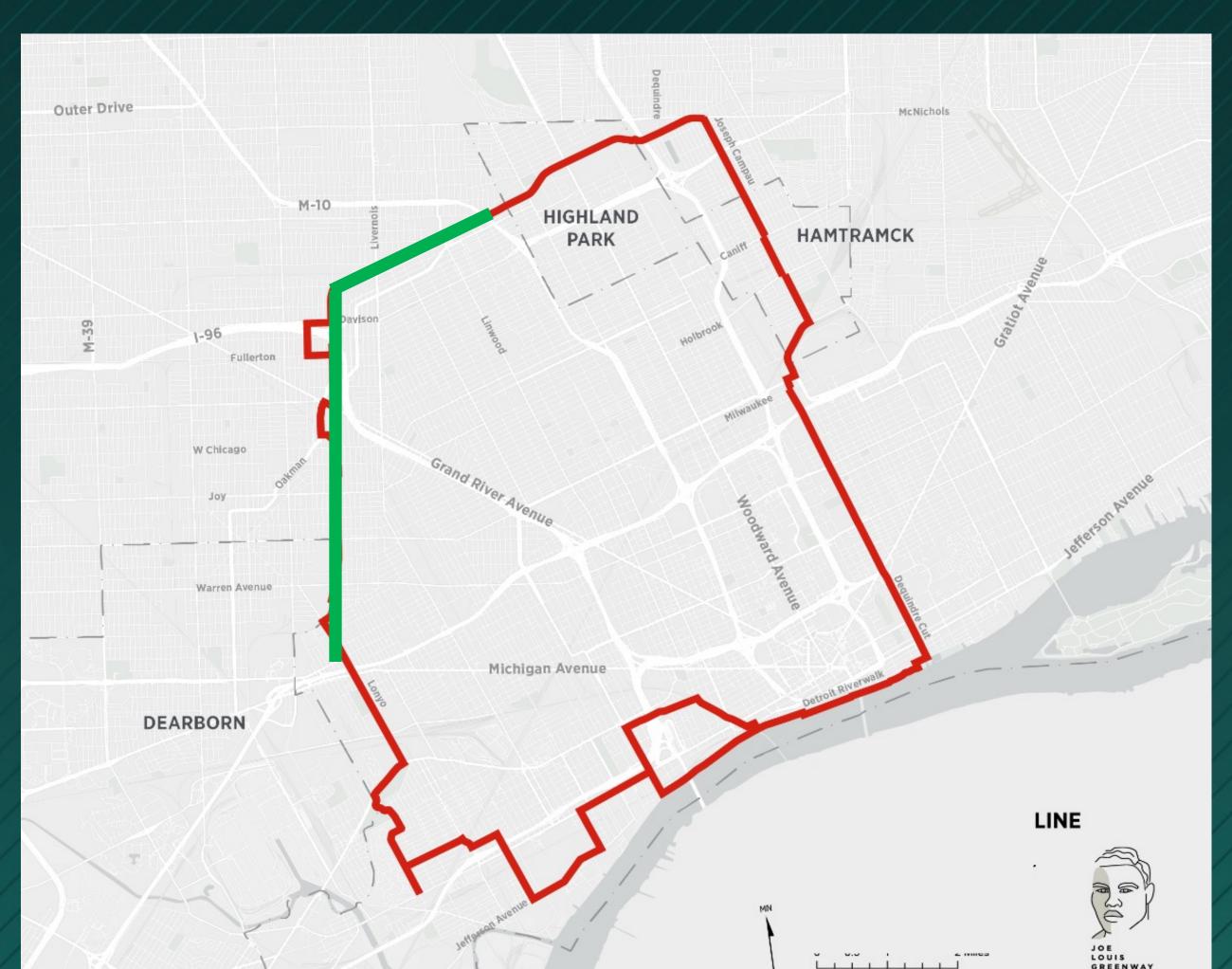
Several neighborhoods in 96-Livernois area were suffering from neighboring blight



Looking closely, we found Conrail still owned 7.5 miles of abandoned railway



We realized it could be the foundation of a greenway throughout Detroit neighborhoods

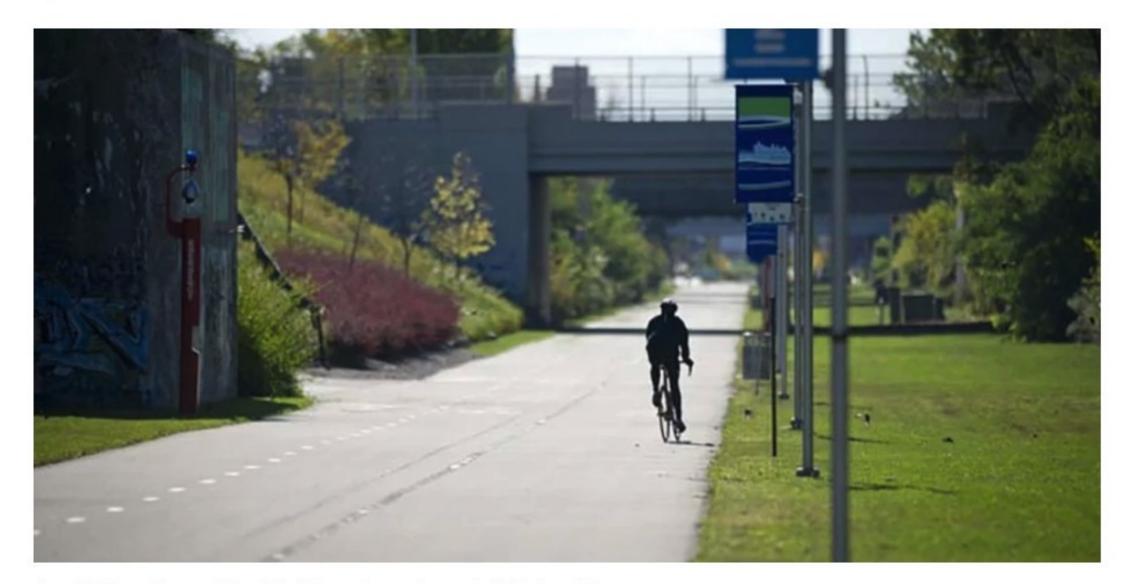


So in 2017, we bought it

News

Detroit buys Conrail railroad property to fill biggest gap in Inner Circle Greenway

By Annalise Frank



Credit: Courtesy of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources

A new section of Detroit's Inner Circle Greenway will be built on a 76-acre property recently purchased by the city of Detroit from Detroit-based Conrail Inc. The pathway will be similar to the popular Dequindre Cut

And immediately began a planning process in the neighborhoods



This abandoned site on Warren in 2017 Is now the Joe Louis Greenway Trailhead



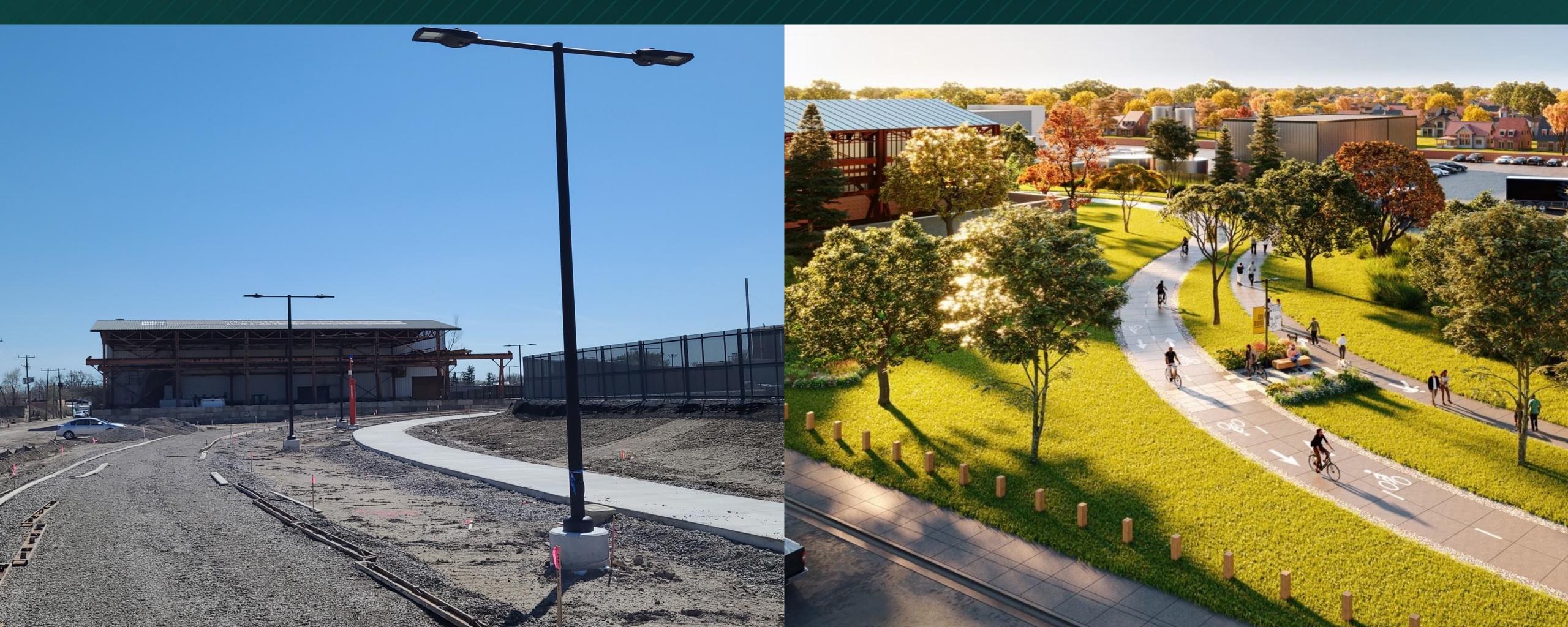
Opened last fall in community celebration



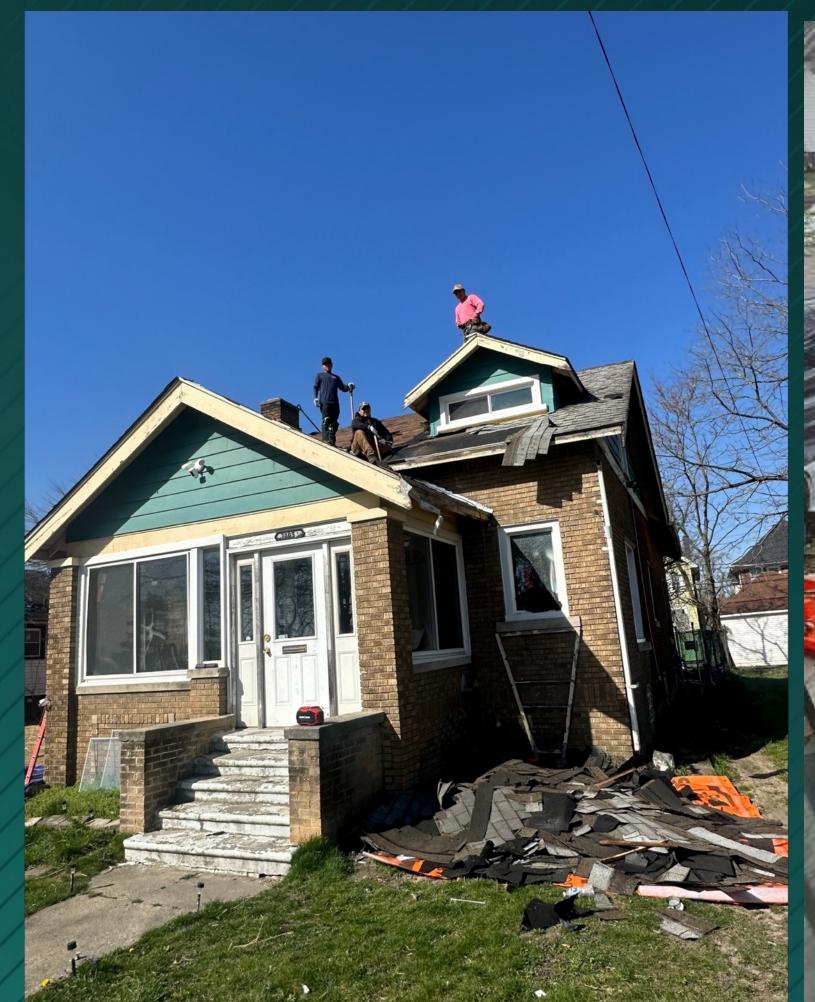
We cleaned out 30,000 abandoned tires Now opened Greenway all the way to Joy



We're investing \$100 million in this 7.5-mile stretch, now building north to Fullerton



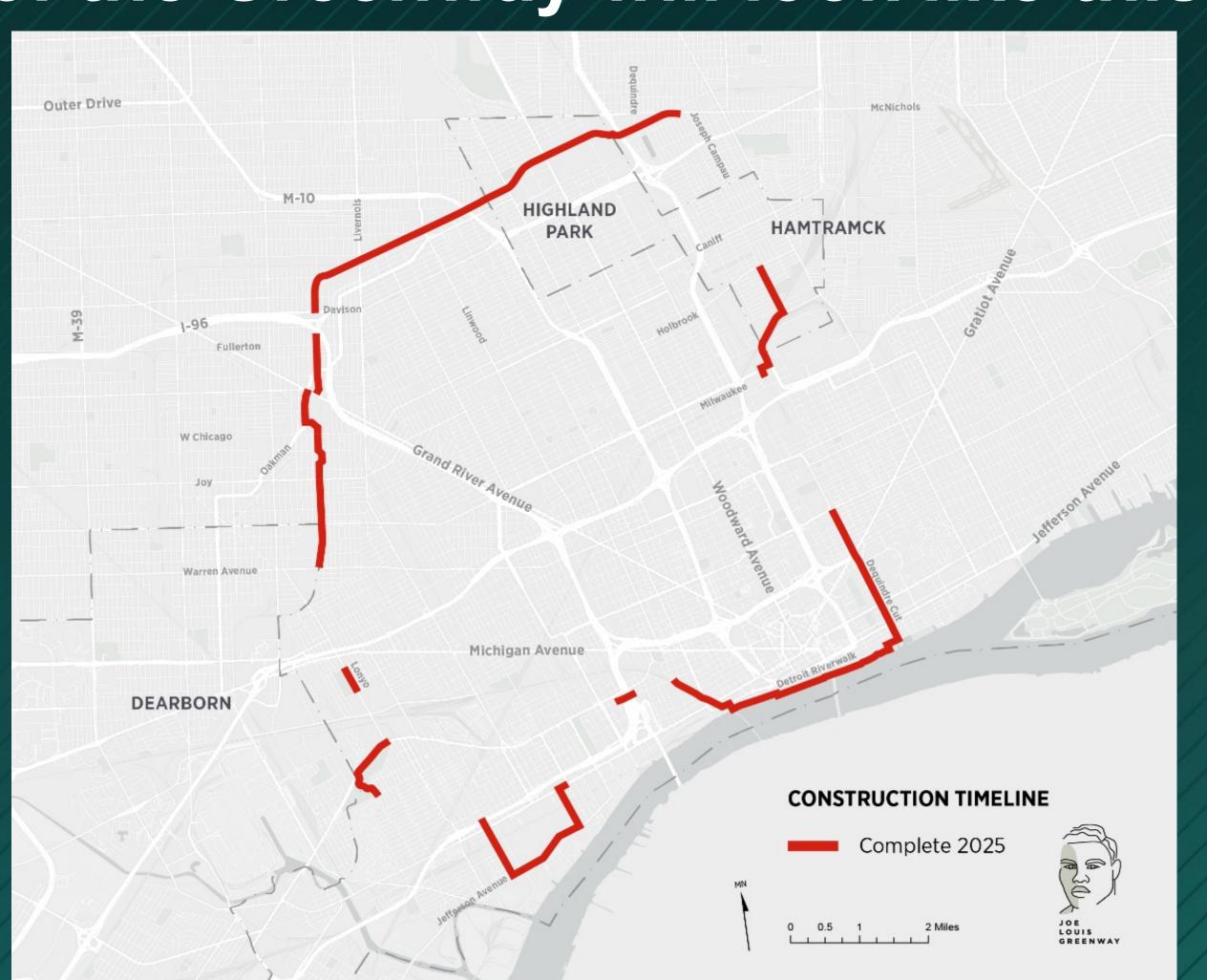
All along the Greenway, you now see people fixing up their houses and rebuilding their neighborhoods







By the end of 2025, the citywide build-out of the Greenway will look like this



And complete in 2027 – Thank you to Warren Evans for Highland Park connection



No group feels more forgotten than 48217 We began by renovating a neglected Kemeny Park



And then built the new Kemeny Recreation Center

KEMENY RECREATION CENTER

2260 S Fort St, Detroit Mi 48217 — 313-628-2819



Tuesdays & Thursdays 2pm — 4pm

FREE with center membership

he City of Detroit Parks & Recreation Division invites you to the

GRAND RE-OPENING

KEMENYRecreation Center

2260 S. Fort Street

Saturday Oct. 27, 2018 11 a.m

Food &



In the growing Bangladeshi community near the Hamtramck border





We took a dreary stretch of Conant And built a beautiful new streetscape



And built Michigan's finest cricket pitch in Jayne Park

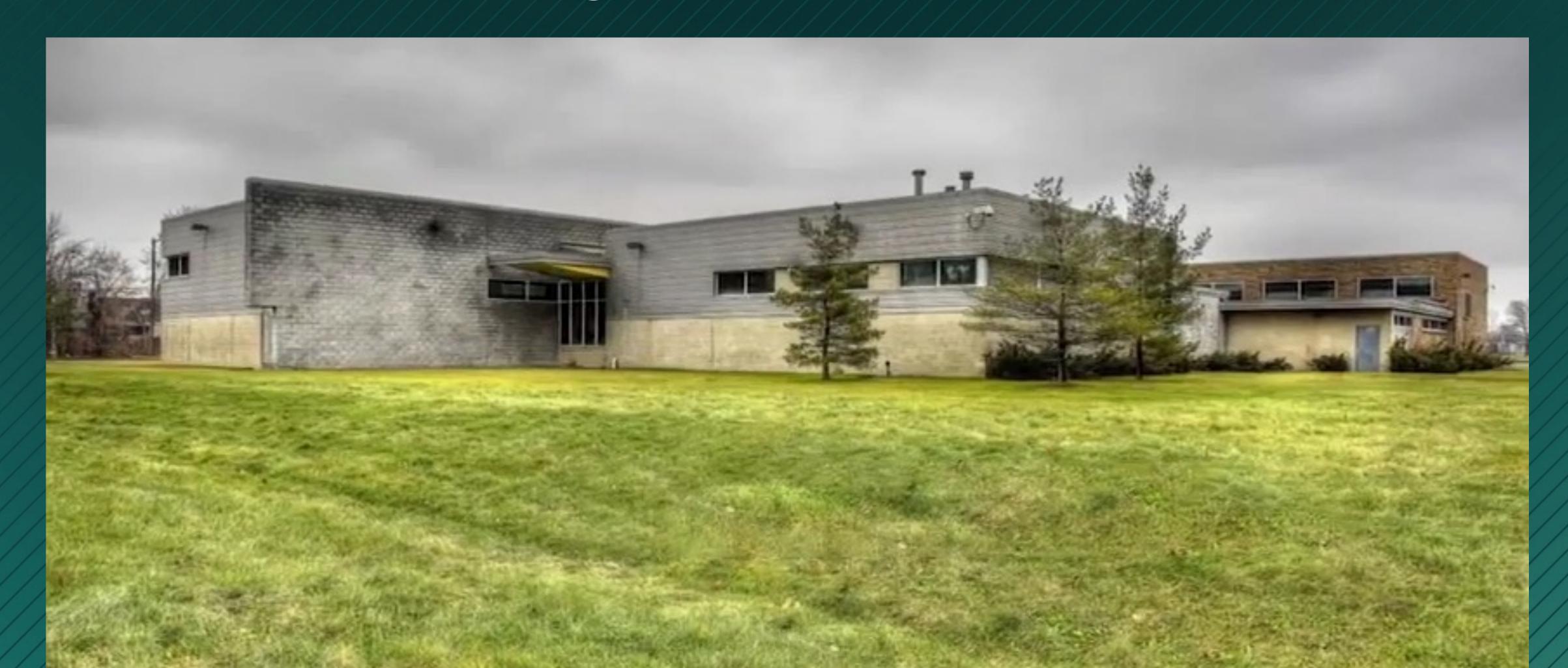




In Claytown, we worked with the Yemeni community and the Detroit Pistons to rebuild Romanowski Park



7 Mile and Van Dyke neighborhood suffered for years with the closing of the Lipke Recreation Center



Mitch Albom and SAY Detroit reopened it, then expanded it, with the help of Kelly and Matt Stafford



The neighborhood by the Detroit Incinerator finally realized their dream of seeing it demolished



Already on the site, we've built a new 200-unit Animal Control Shelter to address our stray dog issue



In Southwest Detroit, the community developed a framework plan for West Vernor



That has already led to a rebuilt Clark Park



And the new 53-unit La Joya Gardens affordable housing project



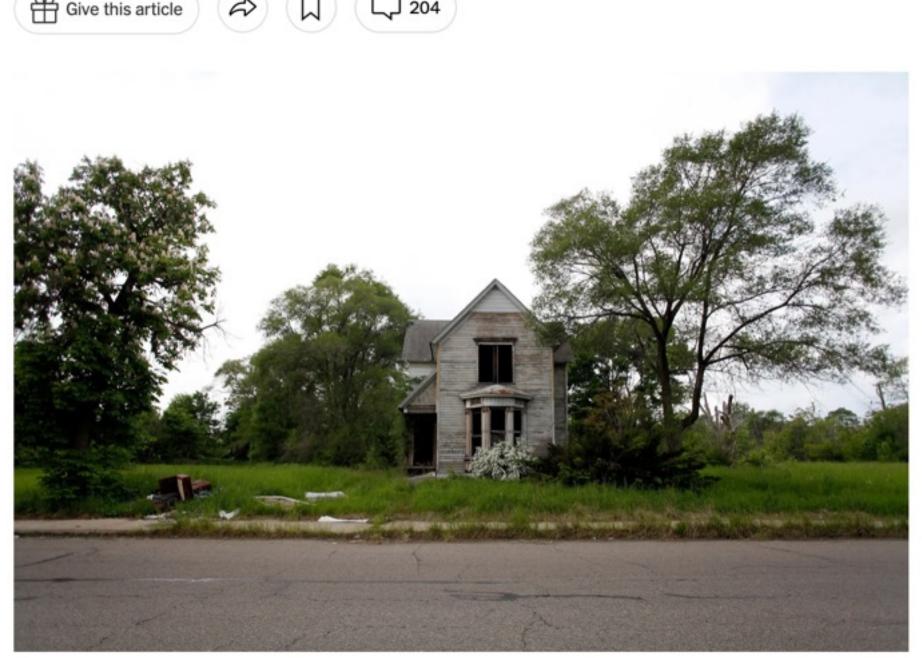
Nothing makes any neighborhood feel more forgotten than the blight of abandoned houses



By 2014, vacant houses had grown to more than 40,000 and many thought the problem was impossible

The New York Times

Detroit Urged to Tear Down 40,000 Buildings





An abandaned home on the west side of Detroit Jachus Lett for The New York Tim

I met repeatedly with President Obama and Vice President Biden about blight funding





Successfully landed 4 major demolition grants, totaling \$265 million in federal funds by 2018

Detroit to get \$21 million more for blight demolition

By Todd Spangler and Paul

A state housing board federal funds between



(Photo: Ryan Garza, Detroit Free Press)

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

Feds give Michigan \$188M more to fight blight

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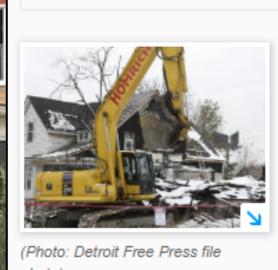
8,600

Duga:

Todd Spangler, Detroit Free Pre

Detroit gets \$42M boost to expand blight removal areas

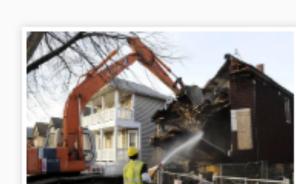
Matt Helms, Detroit Free Press Published 1:27 p.m. ET May 9, 2016 | Updated 6:54 p.m. ET May 9, 2016



Thirty-three homes in the west end the next several weeks. Mandi Wrig

STORY HIGHLIGHTS

- Detroit will add more neighborhoods to demolition plan.
- Detroit has torn down 8,600 homes since January 2014.
- Duggan: 1,200 homes can be torn down that weren't



(Photo: David Coates / The Detroit News)

Detroit gets another \$88M to aid in blight fight

Christine Ferretti, The Detroit News

Published 5:31 p.m. ET June 1, 2016



blight fight, while a \$17.6 million boost is on the way for Flint, state housing officials said Wednesday.

Detroit — Detroit's getting another \$88 million for its

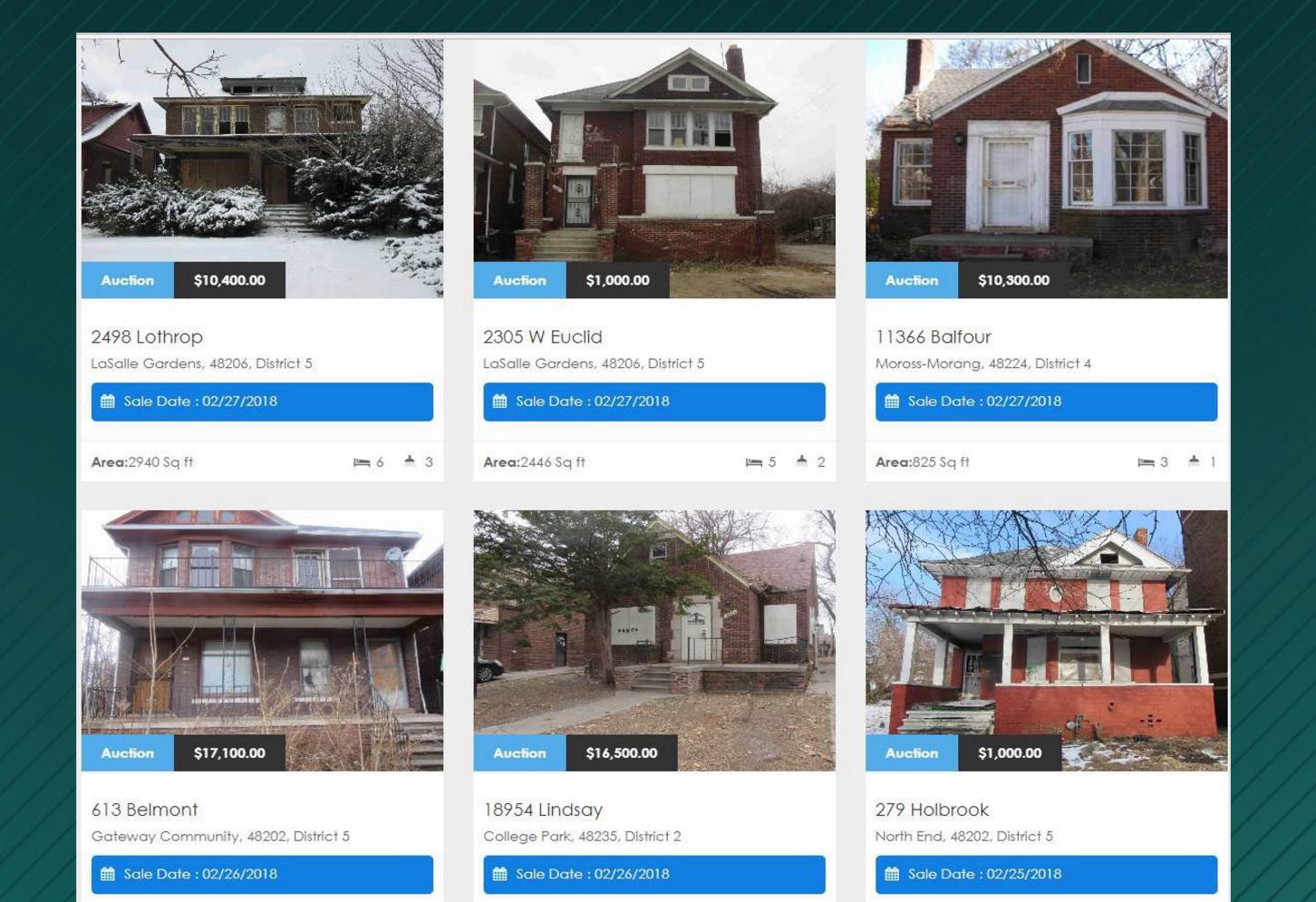
The U.S. Treasury Department approved the allocation plan under its Hardest Hit Fund program. In total, Michigan was awarded \$188.1 million in federal blight dollars in April as part of the latest

round of funding.

Federal funds helped us demolish 21,000 abandoned houses in 6 years



We also started a website to sell vacant houses for rehab to save every house we could



In 5 years, we sold or rehabbed 12,000 houses Like this house at 295 Newport





5239 Three Mile Drive





Lakepointe





In 2019, the federal money had made a huge dent, but the job wasn't finished

Land Bank-Owned Vacant Houses Remaining

2014-15201920,000

To finish the last 20,000 abandoned houses: Thank you voters for passing Proposal N in 2020

■ Q Newsletters
 CRAIN'S DETROIT BUSINESS
 Sign In

Elections

Detroit's \$250 million Proposal N blight bond passes handily



Credit: City of Detroit via Flickr

With Proposal N, we are finishing the job

Land Bank-Owned Vacant Houses

2014-15 47,000

2019 20,000

2024 4,400

And the last 4,400 by end of 2025?

To be demolished 1,700

To be sold/rehabbed 2,700

TOTAL LEFT

We cleaned out 3,000 alleys



Replaced 400,000 broken sidewalk slabs – nearly 500 miles of new sidewalks in the last 6 years Before After





Put in 10,000 speed humps to slow neighborhood traffic



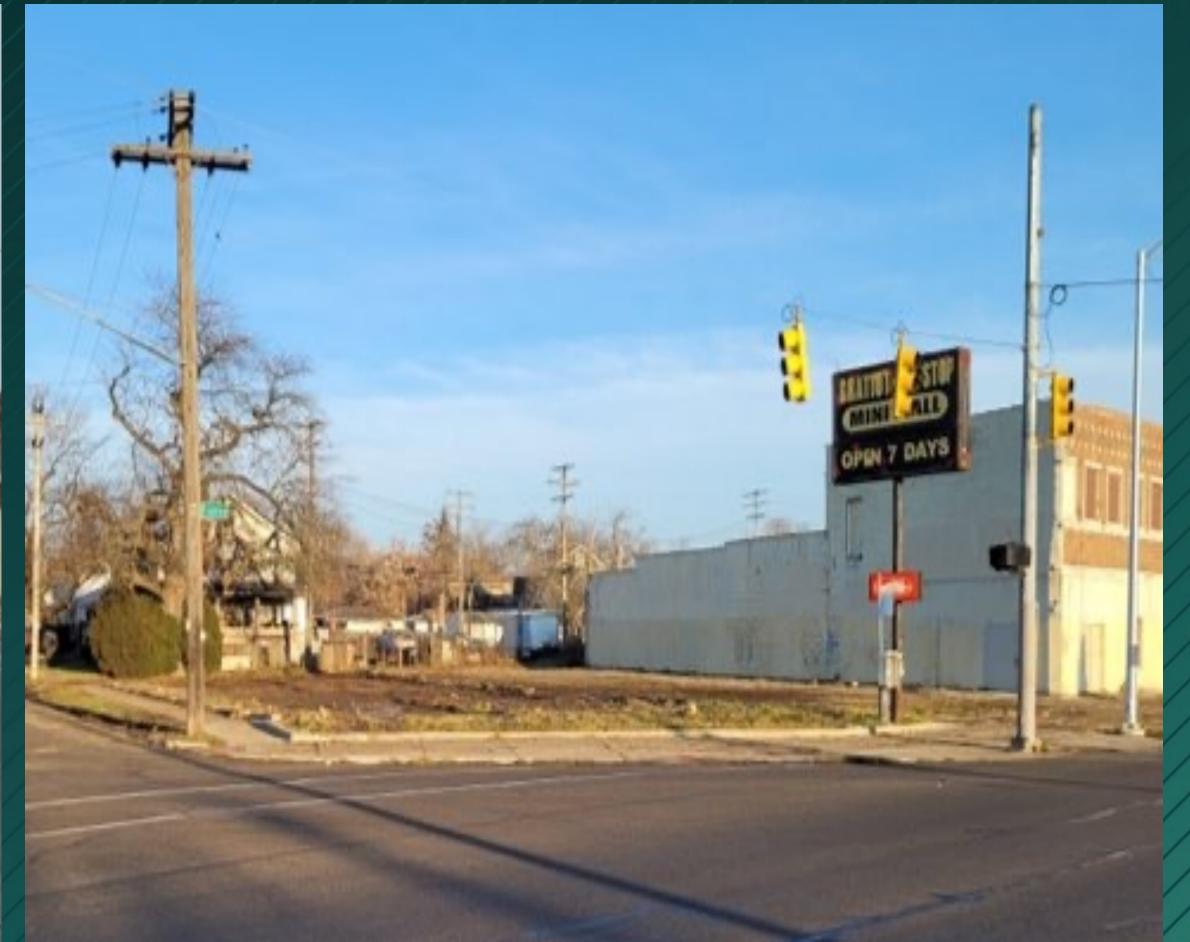


Removed more than 400 unsightly fences

Before

After





And took down 400 deteriorating signs





Painted more than 300 dilapidated buildings





We're replacing roofs for 2,000 low-income seniors and disabled

'Renew Detroit' completes 500th roof replacement for free

By Amy Lange and Nour Rahal | Published March 6, 2024 8:09pm EST | Detroit | FOX 2 Detroit |





Barbara l'Ron-Roof 500!

Removing dangerous trees under program sponsored by Councilman James Tate

City of Detroit introduces Dead, Dangerous and Diseased Tree program to help residents with yard clean up



Detroit displaced Miami for the highest growth in U.S. property values in 2023

BLACK WEALTH FOR LIFE INTERPRISE



REAL ESTATE | by Derek Major - January 12, 2024

DETROIT PASSES MIAMI AS THE FASTEST-APPRECIATING U.S. HOUSING MARKET

Metro Detroit has bested Miami in the housing market...find out how!

10 years ago when I was sworn in, I urged Detroiters not to move out

Mike Duggan: Don't move out, Detroit; give me six months to make things better

Updated: Jan. 07, 2014, 4:09 p.m. | Published: Jan. 07, 2014, 3:09 p.m.



National news yesterday out of Detroit - Record gains in Black wealth in last 10 years



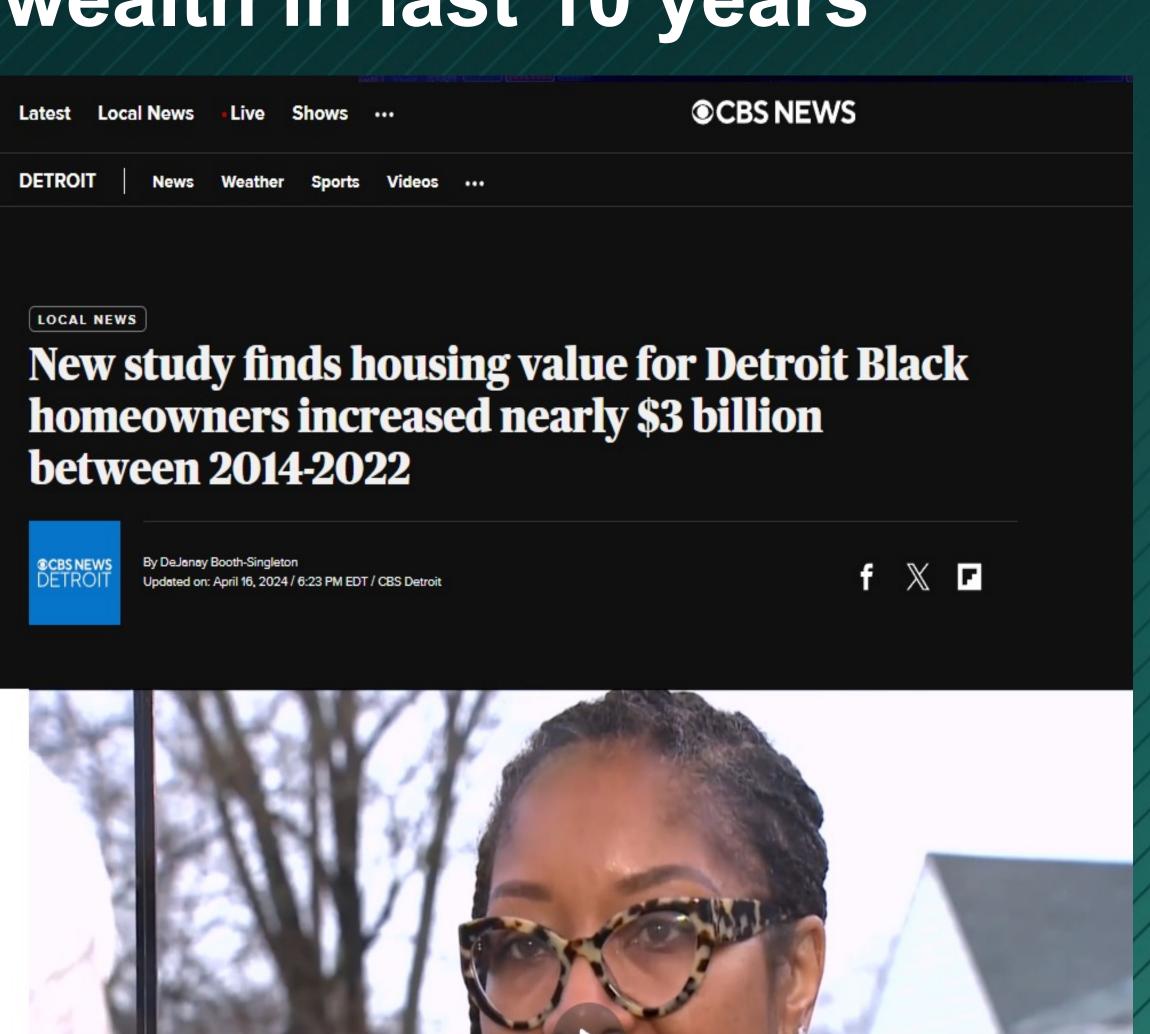
DETROIT — Home values in Detroit — especially for Black residents — have increased by billions of dollars in the years following the city's exit from the <u>largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. history</u>, according to a study released Tuesday.

Comment 0

Get a curated selection of 10 of our best stories in your inbox every weekend.

The University of Michigan Poverty Solutions report says added home value for Black residents increased 80% between 2014 and 2022.

For Black homeowners, estimated home values rose from \$3.4 billion to \$6.2 billion over that period, while the net value of all owner-occupied homes in the city increased from \$4.2 billion to \$8.1 billion.



Our Work

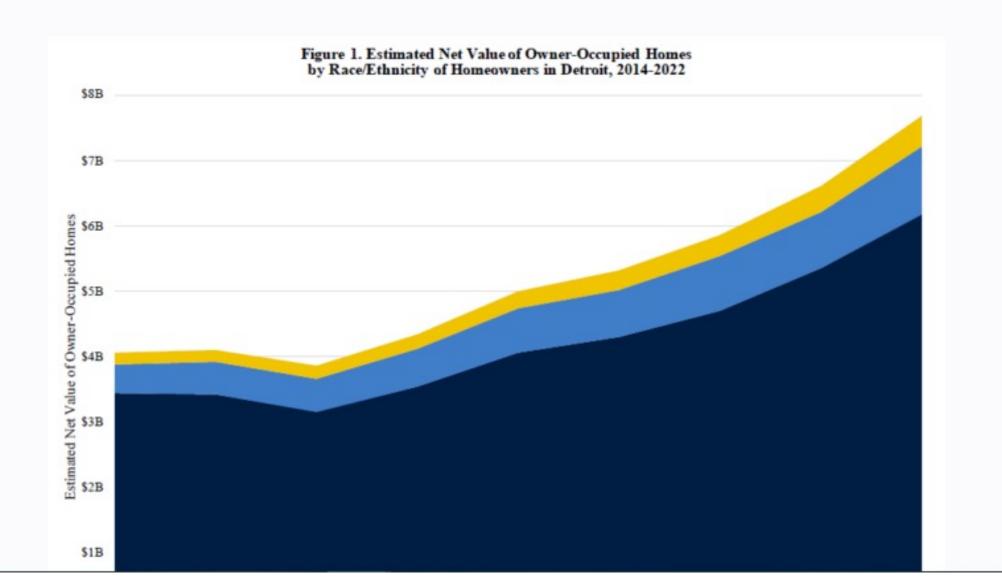


News

← Back to news

U-M study: Detroit's Black homeowners gained nearly \$3B in real estate wealth from 2014-22

April 16, 2024



2024 University of Michigan Study of Detroit Wealth and Home Values

Detroit homeowners gained \$4 billion of wealth in 9 years: from \$4 billion to \$8 billion

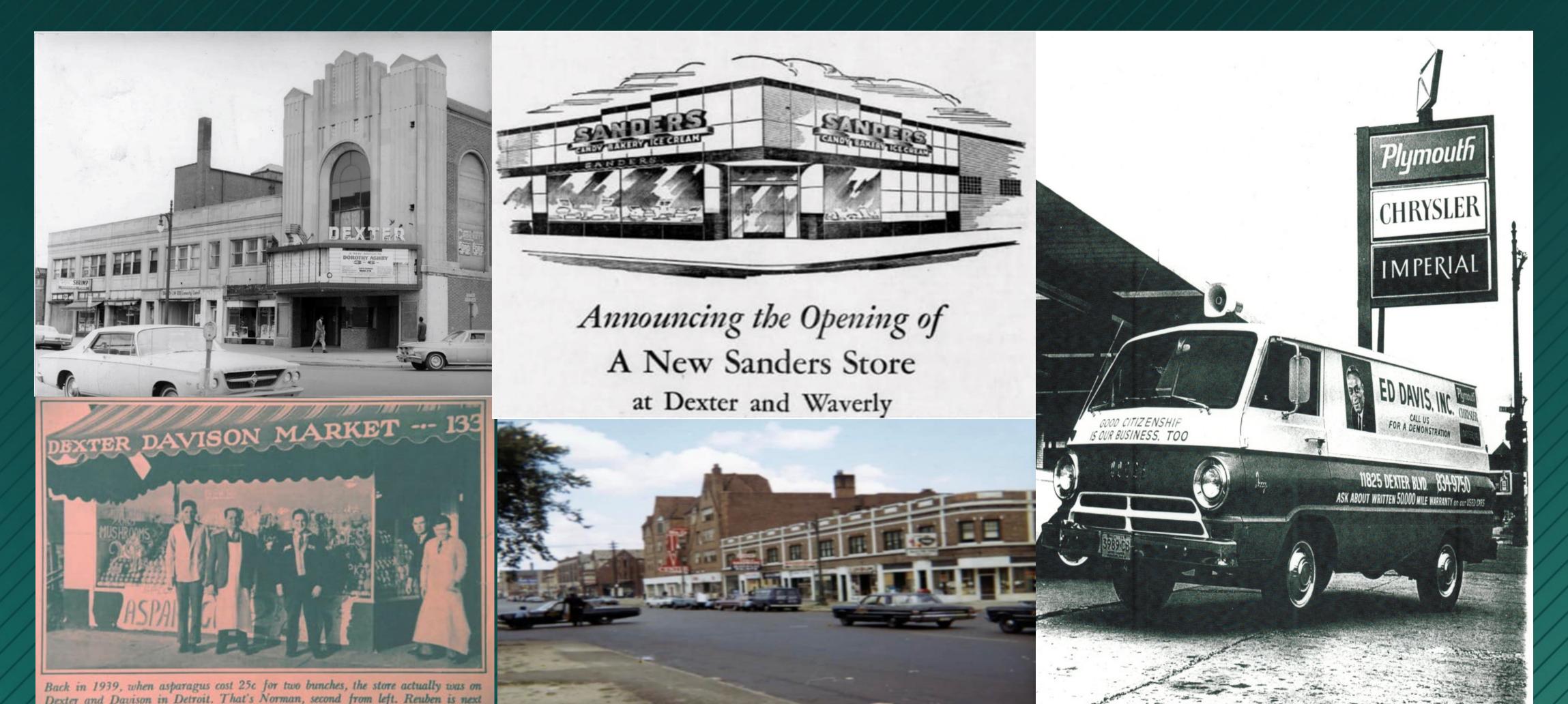
Black homeowner wealth grew \$3 billion

Latino homeowners gained \$400 million – saw their property values triple

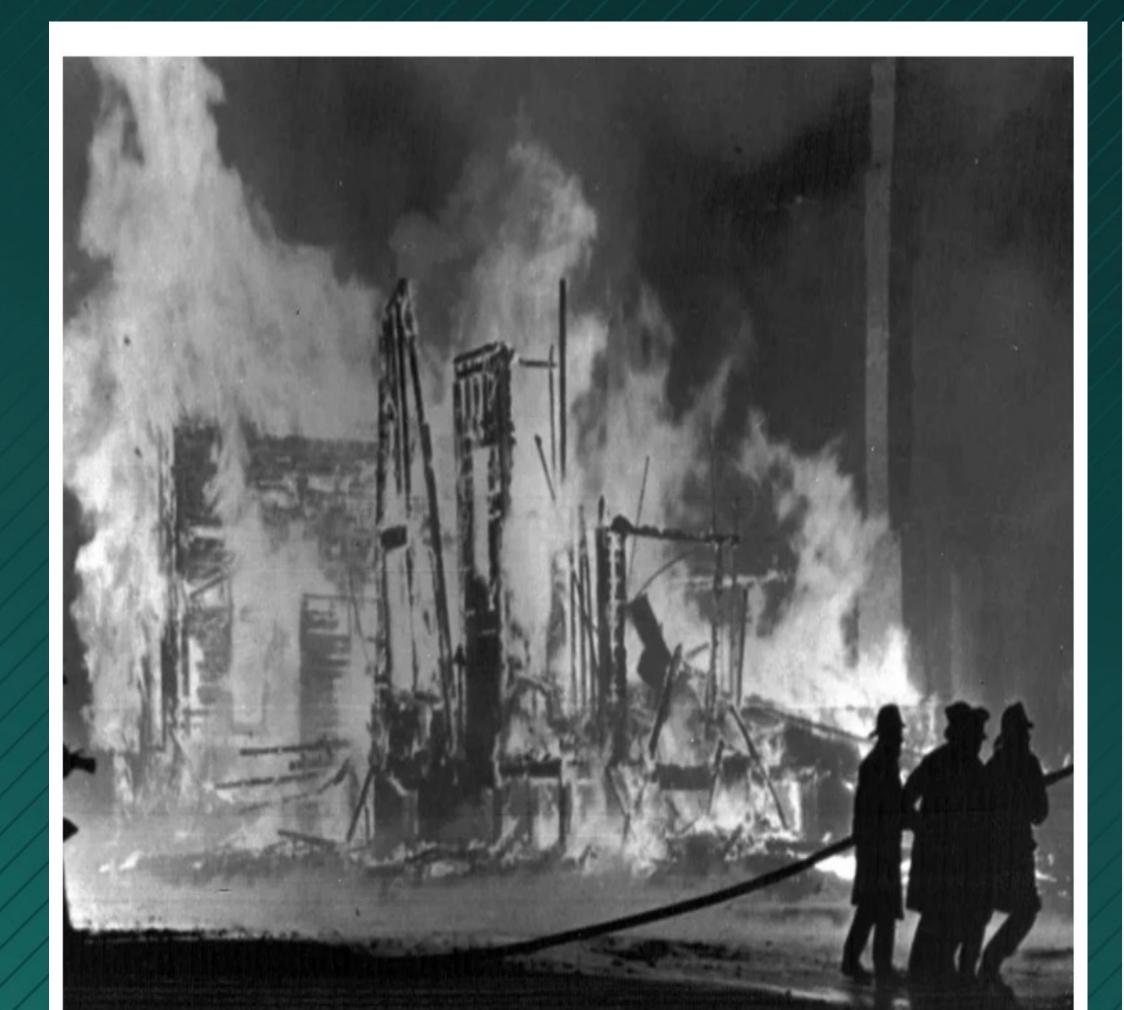
Thank you to the 600 block club and community groups that led the recovery in their own neighborhoods



Here tonight on Dexter Avenue - once one of Detroit's most vibrant communities



Nearly half the Dexter businesses were wiped out in the violence of 1967





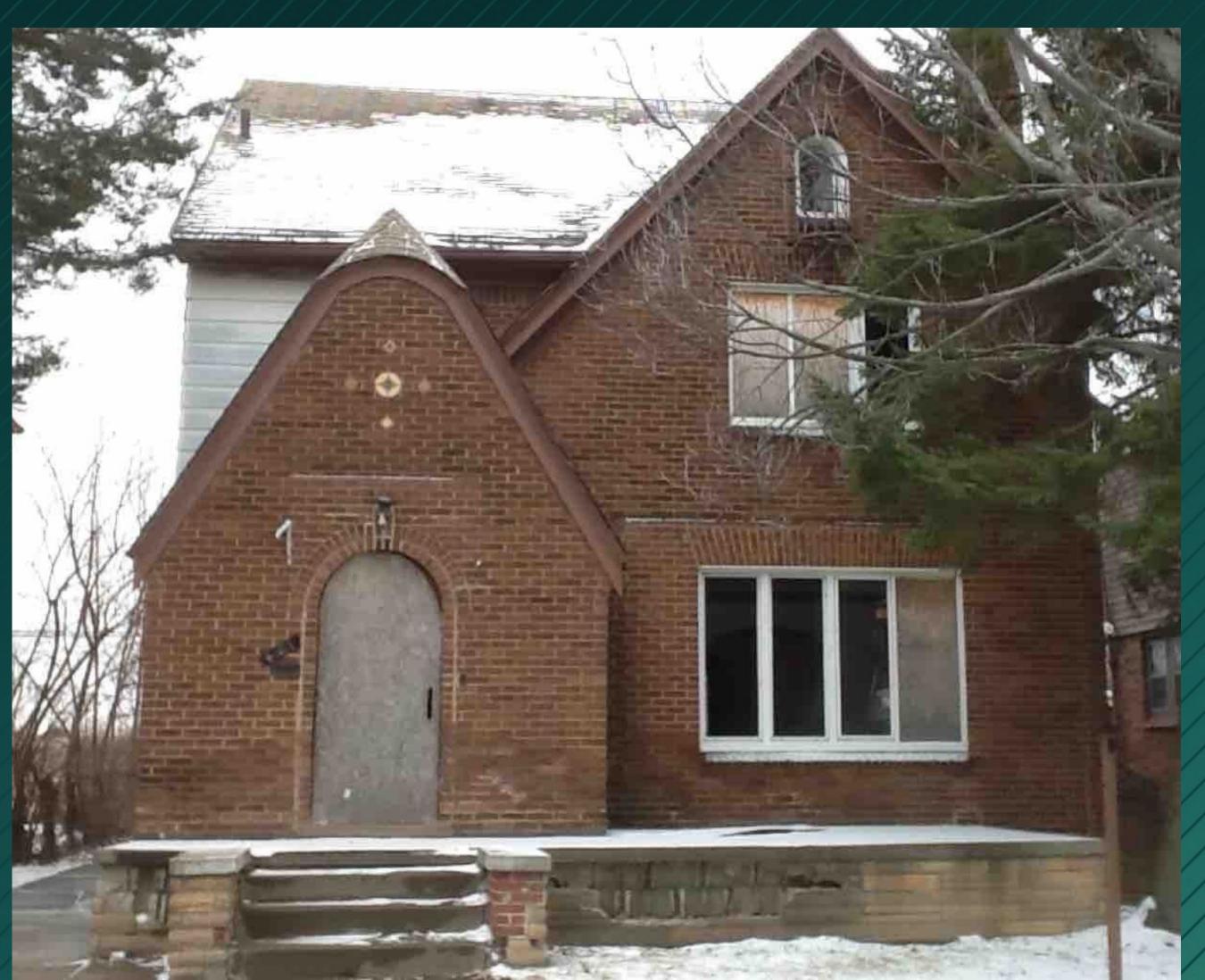
But the Russell Woods neighborhood next door stood proud



Until Detroit's financial crisis of 2010-2013







The Land Bank took 15 abandoned houses, and instead of demolishing them, sold them to families who fixed them up

RUSSELL WOODS DETROIT LAND BANK AUCTIONS

Detroit Land Bank to Auction Russell Woods Homes Tomorrow

By Rebecca Golden | Jul 22, 2015, 4:07pm EDT | 8 comments



4347 Tyler



4225 W. Davison



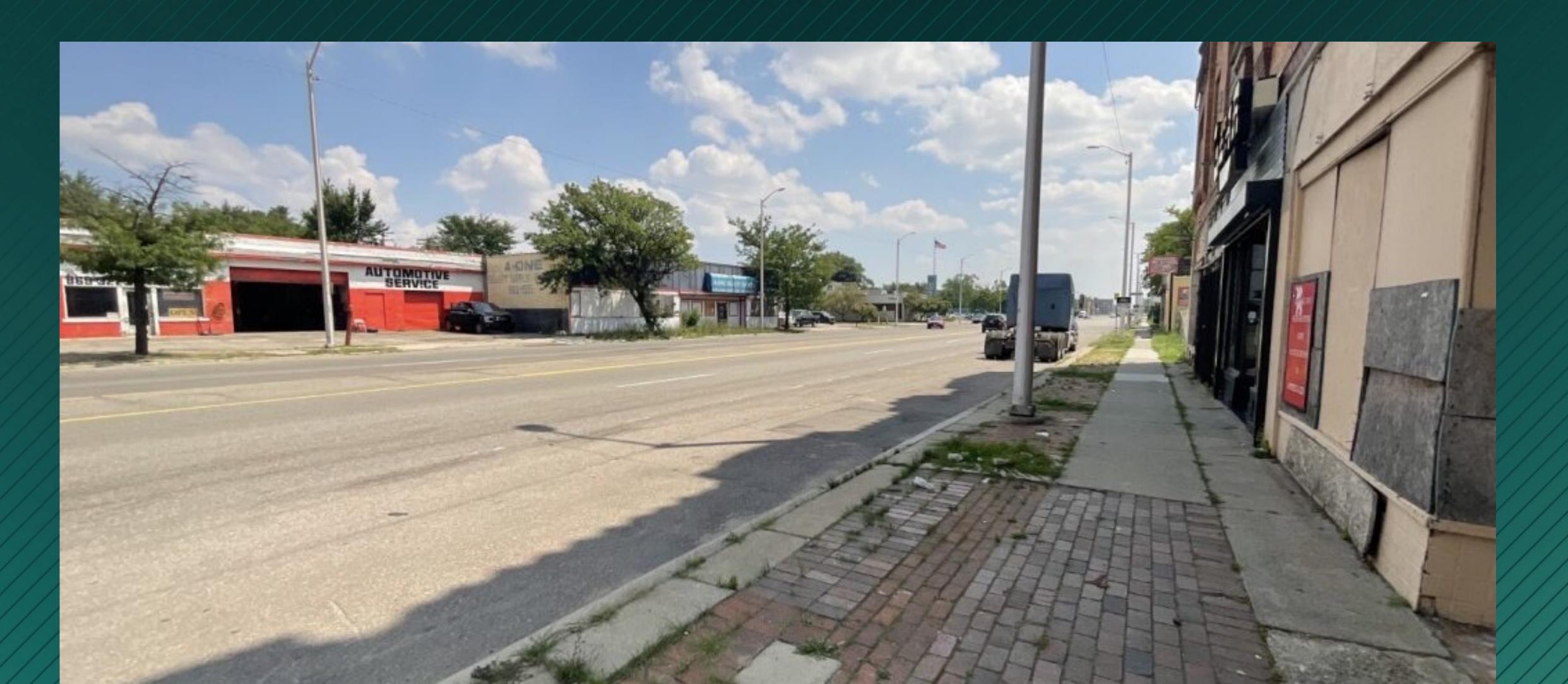
The neighborhood's forgotten Zussman Park Was completely rebuilt by the City in 2021



The In Harmony Café is now the center for a new Dexter Avenue Business Association



On the rundown commercial corridor...



We're building a new \$10-million Dexter streetscape from Webb to Davison



The abandoned St. Paul Apartments are being renovated by Fabiola Fleuranvil Into a restored 77-unit senior housing center





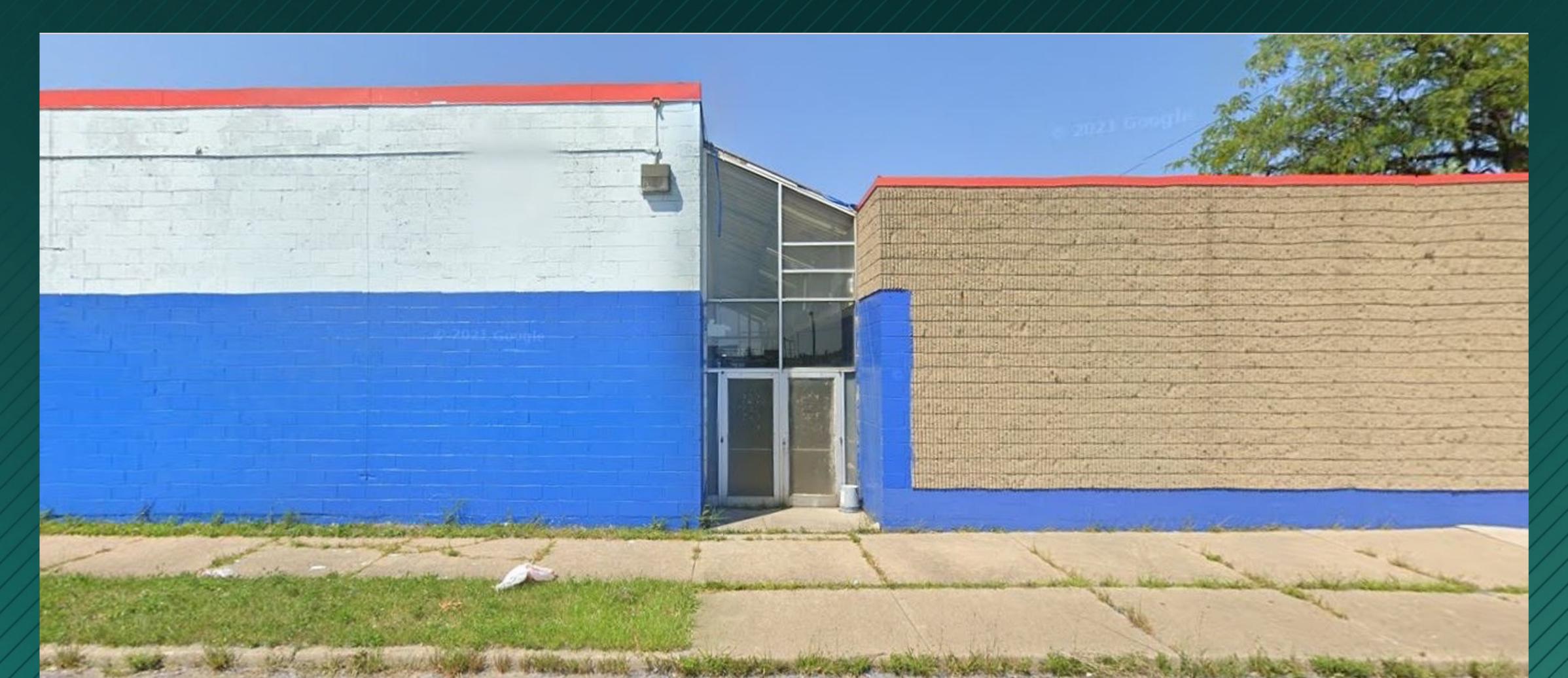
The overgrown recreation area at Dexter and Elmhurst



Is being remade into a beautiful new park



But the heart of this community had been the Dexter Elmhurst Rec Center



For years, one person has fought to save the center and reopen it for the community – Helen Moore





When we open the new facility next year it will be...



We don't mind the controversy... Detroit is ready to greet the NFL





STATE OF THE CITY

2024