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TO: Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: June 26, 2025

RE: AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CITIZEN NEIGHBORHOOD BLIGHT PATROLS IN THE CITY OF DETROIT.

Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING CITIZEN NEIGHBORHOOD BLIGHT PATROLS IN THE CITY OF DETROIT.

This item may be referred to the Law Department for approval as to form. If we can be of further assistance, please feel free to contact our office.

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S U M M A R Y

This Ordinance amends Chapter 26 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, *Law Enforcement*; by amending Article III, Citizen Radio Patrol Assistance Program, by adding Division 1, *Citizen Radio Patrol Assistance Program*, and adding Division 2, *Citizen Neighborhood Blight Patrol*, comprised of Section 26-3-21 *Purpose*; Section 26-3-22 *Establishment*; Section 26-3-23 *Administration*; Section 26-3-24 *Reporting*; Section 26-3-25 *Form of Assistance*; Section 26-3-26 *Eligible Expenditures*; Section 26-3-27 *Patrol Membership Qualifications*; and Section 26-3-28 *Patrol Conduct Rules*. To foster the effort of neighborhood revitalization to maintain property values, safety and the overall community well-being.

1 **BY COUNCIL MEMBER** _____:

2 **AN ORDINANCE** to amend Chapter 26 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, *Law Enforcement*;
3 by amending Article III, Citizen Radio Patrol Assistance Program, by adding Division 1, *Citizen*
4 *Radio Patrol Assistance Program*, and adding Division 2, *Citizen Neighborhood Blight Patrol*,
5 comprised of Section 26-3-21 *Purpose*; Section 26-3-22 *Establishment*; Section 26-3-23
6 *Administration*; Section 26-3-24 *Reporting*; Section 26-3-25 *Form of Assistance*; Section 26-3-26
7 *Eligible Expenditures*; Section 26-3-27 *Patrol Membership Qualifications*; and Section 26-3-28
8 *Patrol Conduct Rules*. To foster the effort of neighborhood revitalization to maintain property
9 values, safety and the overall community well-being.

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11 **IT IS HEREBY ORDAINED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE CITY OF DETROIT THAT:**

12 **Section 1.** Chapter 26 of the 2019 Detroit City Code, *Law Enforcement*; is amended
13 by adding Division 1 to Article III, Citizen Radio Patrol Assistance Program, and adding Division
14 2, *Citizen Neighborhood Blight Patrol*, to consist of Section 26-3-21 through 26-3-28 to read as
15 follows:

16

17 **CHAPTER 26, LAW ENFORCEMENT**

18 **ARTICLE III,**

19 **DIVISION 1**

20 **CITIZEN RADIO PATROL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

21

1
2 **DIVISION 2**
3 **CITIZEN NEIGHBORHOOD BLIGHT PATROL**
4

5 **Sec 26-3-21 Purpose.**

6 To foster the effort of neighborhood revitalization to maintain property values, safety and
7 the overall community well-being by providing a mechanism for citizens to report land that
8 is dilapidated, hazardous or dangerous, upon which discarded materials have been
9 deposited, including junk automobiles without valid up to date license plates, unsheltered
10 building materials, partially completed structures without evidence of work activity,
11 uninhabitable structures, vacant buildings, and unmaintained buildings.

12 **Sec. 26-3-22 Establishment**

13 There is hereby established a Citizen Neighborhood Blight Patrol.

14 **Sec. 26-3-23 Administration**

15 (a) The Police Department shall act as the administering agency, receive
16 reimbursement requests, and review the documentation for compliance with the
17 conditions of assistance under this article.

18 (b) The Chief of Police, in consultation with the Chief Financial Officer or the
19 Deputy Chief Financial Officer for Office of Budget, shall promulgate

1 procedural rules for the administration of this program in accordance with
2 Section 2-111 of the Charter.

3 (c) The Police Department shall receive and review each application for the
4 creation of new Citizen Neighborhood Blight Patrols with respect to
5 compatibility of patrol boundaries and any Police Department requirements;

6 The Police Department shall approve or disapprove the applications and enter
7 approved programs into the reimbursement system.

8 (d) After approving the applications for assistance, the Police Department shall
9 approve the allocation of funds among eligible patrols.

10 (e) Citizen Blight Patrols shall be established in each police precinct utilizing the
11 established precinct boundaries as the designated patrol areas.

12 (f) The Citizen Blight Patrol Program shall be administered through the Police
13 Department's Neighborhood Police Officers (NPO's) Program in conjunction
14 with the Department of Neighborhoods.

15 (g) The Police Department shall process bi-monthly reports of expenditures from
16 eligible patrols and expedite reimbursement for all eligible expenditures
17 supported by proper receipts or other appropriate documentation up to the
18 amount of each patrol's approved budget balanced.

19 **Sec. 26-3-24 Reporting.**

20 (a) Citizen Blight Patrols shall conduct area assessments on a regular basis to be

1 determined by the Police Precinct Command, not to exceed once every two weeks.

2 (b) Citizen Blight Patrols shall record all potential blight violations in the designated area
3 and report such violations to the police precinct Command Officer in charge of
4 Neighborhood Policing to be forwarded to the Department of Neighborhoods for
5 follow up and resolution by the appropriate city department.

6 (c) The Department of Neighborhoods shall keep a monthly record of all reported
7 violations, including the date the report was received, nature of the complaint, city
8 department responsible for investigation, action taken by the city department and status.

9 (d) All reports generated pursuant to section 26-3-24 (b) shall be made available to the
10 general public through the department of neighborhoods, upon request.

11 **Sec. 26-3-25 Form of Assistance.**

12 (a) Assistance shall be provided under this article in the form of a limited account whereby
13 each eligible citizen blight patrol is reimbursed monthly for all eligible expenditures up
14 to the patrol's budget allocation;

15 (b) The Police Department shall provide each eligible citizen bight patrol with vehicle
16 identification in the form of a blight patrol identification sign;

17 (c) The Police Department shall provide eligible citizen blight patrol members with
18 apparel, such as high visibility safety jackets which clearly display language indicating
19 blight patrol membership.

20 **Sec. 26-3-26 Eligible Expenditures.**

1 (1) Patrol members shall be eligible for mileage reimbursement, whose rate shall not
2 exceed the standard mileage rate as prescribed each year in the Internal Revenue code,
3 being 26 USC 1 et seq., which is not subject to income tax;

4 **Sec 26-3-27 Patrol Membership Qualifications.**

5 (1) At least 80 percent of active patrol members shall be persons residing in or owning
6 businesses in the regularly patrolled community.

7 (2) Patrols shall not discriminate on the basis of race, religious beliefs, color, sex,
8 national origin age, height, weight, familial status marital status, disability, public
9 benefit status, sexual orientation, or gender identity or expression in selecting
10 members.

11 (3) Patrols shall not use property ownership or its equivalent as a condition of
12 membership.

13 (4) A patrol may establish a minimum age of 18 years for patrol membership eligibility.
14 Members under 18 years of age must be accompanied by a parent or guardian when
15 on patrol duty.

16 **Secs, 26-3-28 Patrol Conduct Rules**

17 (a) Use of vehicles.

18 (1) Use of vehicles in patrolling shall not be a condition of assistance;

19 (2) Vehicles used for patrolling shall be in good mechanical condition; and

- 1 (3) Vehicles used in patrolling shall be insured in accordance with state law.
- 2 (b) Financial Limitations.
- 3 (1) No salary shall be paid to any volunteer.
- 4 (c) All persons conducting blight patrol shall comply with the following:
- 5 (1) No patrol member, including those holding concealed weapon permits, shall carry
6 any weapons on their person or in a patrol vehicle, including in the luggage
7 compartment, or vehicle trunk during patrol operations. Prohibited weapons shall
8 include, but not be limited to, guns of any type, knives, chains, clubs, tire irons
9 and chemical dispensers, but shall not include a properly stowed standard jack
10 handle, or, if participating in a recreation league, a baseball bat.
- 11 (2) Dogs shall not be carried in any patrol vehicle during patrol operations.
- 12 (3) During vehicle patrol operations, patrol members shall remain in their vehicles,
13 except where exit from the vehicle is necessary to obtain photos of perceived
14 blight. Any pictures obtained shall be taken from the public right of way and
15 patrol members are prohibited from entering upon private property to obtain
16 photos or other evidence of blight.
- 17 (4) While on patrol, members shall not conduct interrogations of persons suspected
18 of blight activity.

1 (5) No emergency signaling lights or other signaling devices, for example, amber
2 flashing lights or sirens, may be in operation in or on a moving patrol vehicle
3 during patrol operations. This prohibition shall not include the standard factory
4 installed flasher system or its equivalent.

5 (6) Patrol members shall not consume or be under the influence of marijuana, other
6 illegal drugs, alcoholic liquor, or medications that induce intoxicating effects
7 while on patrol duty.

8 **Section 2.** All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with this ordinance are
9 repealed.

10 **Section 3.** This ordinance is declared necessary for the preservation of the public
11 peace, health, safety, and welfare of the people of the City of Detroit.

12 **Section 4.** If this ordinance is passed by a two-thirds (2/3) majority of City Council
13 members serving, it shall be given immediate effect and shall become effective upon
14 publication in accordance with Section 4-118 of the 2012 Detroit City Charter; if passed
15 by less than a two-thirds (2/3) majority of City Council members serving, it shall become
16 effective no later than thirty (30) days after publication in accordance with Section 4-118
17 of the 2012 Detroit City Charter; if this ordinance specifies a certain date to become
18 effective, it shall become effective in accordance with the date

19 Approved as to form:

20 _____

1 Conrad L. Mallett, Jr.
2 Corporation Counsel
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