


David Whitaker, Esq.  
*Director*  
Irvin Corley, Jr.  
*Executive Policy Manager*  
Marcell R. Todd, Jr.  
*Director, City Planning*  
*Commission*  
Janese Chapman  
*Director, Historic Designation*  
*Advisory Board*

John Alexander  
LaKisha Barclift, Esq.  
Timarie DeBruchl  
Paige Blessman  
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP  
Victory Corley  
Lisa DiChiera  
Eric Fazzini, AICP  
Willene Green  
Christopher Gulock, AICP

**City of Detroit**  
**CITY COUNCIL**  
LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION  
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

Marcel Hurt, Esq.  
Sandra L. Jeffers  
Kimani Jeffrey  
Anthony W. L. Johnson  
Phillip Keller, Esq.  
Edward King  
Kelsey Maas  
Jamie Murphy  
Dolores Perales-Lara  
Analine Powers, Ph.D.  
W. Akilah Redmond  
Renee Short  
Floyd Stanley  
Thomas Stephens, Esq.  
Theresa Thomas  
Janice Tillmon  
Ian Tomashik  
Emberly Vick  
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director  
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: November 7, 2025

RE: **Report on public safety and quality of life issues at 11560 Harper Avenue (Travel Inn)**

Council Member Latisha Johnson has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) provide a report outlining any enforcement actions, code violations, or citations issued for quality of life or public safety concerns regarding the Travel Inn located at 11560 Harper Avenue, Detroit, MI 48213.

The Detroit Police Department (DPD), as well as the Building Safety Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED), have been made aware of numerous incidents of illicit activities and building code violations in and around the location of the Travel Inn. In response, BSEED has conducted multiple inspections of the premises while DPD has responded to frequent calls to the site, regularly surveilled the area in and around the Travel Inn for various criminal activities, and participated in numerous undercover operations.

DPD provided LPD with a timeline of activities conducted by the department in the Harper/Conner corridor, which is in the immediate area of the Travel Inn, from the period of June 6, 2024 through September 5, 2025. During this period DPD stated that Vice Enforcement Conducted 12 OTE/Reverse OTE (Offer to Engage) operations. The term “offer to engage” refers to engaging the services of another person for any act of prostitution which is illegal under Michigan law.<sup>1</sup>

In addition to the above-mentioned activities, on November 1, 2024, DPD conducted a Community Engagement Outreach Operation across from the Travel Inn Hotel near the intersection of

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<sup>1</sup> [Offer to Engage Category Archives — Michigan Criminal Lawyer Blog Published by Michigan Criminal Defense Attorneys — Abdo Law Firm](#)

Harper and Conner. These outreach efforts offer services to women in the area who are victims of sex trafficking, women who engage in illegal sex work, and those who suffer from drug addiction and/or are unsheltered.

On December 12, 2024 members from Vice Enforcement, the 9th Precinct NPO'S and BSEED conducted a building/business inspection at the Travelers Inn. BSEED Inspector Magnene indicated that he discovered building code violations. Also, evidence of bed bugs was observed.

On the same day, the Vice Enforcement Unit conducted a check of all residents/renters' phone numbers of the Travel Inn via a prostitution ad search tool called "Spotlight" to see if any of the phone numbers were attached to sex ads that are listed online, which yielded negative results.

December 17, 2024, DPD accompanied an Inspector from the City of Detroit Health Department for a health inspection of the premises at 11590 Harper. During the inspection, a motel room that had previously been infested with bed bugs was checked and no bed bug activity was detected in this particular room at that time. Additionally, the inspection found that there were no other health-related violations at the location.

DPD reported that on December 19, 2024, Vice requested that BSEED conduct an emergency building closure for the location due to the location being a potential danger to the public. This request was due to the 488 calls for service that had been requested for the location from the period of January 1, 2024 through December 11, 2024. It is not clear how long the Travel Inn remained closed due to the emergency building closure. Out of the 488 calls to the location in 2024, some of the most serious were (21) calls for violent crimes (assaults), (13) calls of service for death investigations/overdoses, and (9) calls of service were for larcenies. Out of these incidents (4) death investigations/overdose reports were made, (11) assault reports were made, (1) robbery report was made and (9) vehicle theft reports were made.

On April 19 2025, as part of a reverse OTE operation conducted by vice enforcement at 11560 Harper, two hotel rooms on the 1st floor were obtained and decoys were deployed inside the location for the purpose of obtaining a "date". Throughout the duration of the operation no prostitution activity was observed. It was stated that Decoys walked all 3 floors of the location and did not see any individuals engaged in the offering of sexual services nor any people loitering in the hallways. Only one issue occurred during the operation, which was a domestic disturbance where a scout car from the 9th Precinct was dispatched to handle the situation.

On September 5, 2025, Vice Enforcement returned to the Travelers Inn to conduct another Reverse OTE Operation. Again, two hotel rooms were obtained, and decoys were deployed inside of the location for purposes of obtaining a "date". During this time, decoys again walked the floors and were not solicited. The decoys did not see any prostitution activity.

BSEED responded to another bedbug complaint on July 29,2025 and issued a correction order. A follow-up inspection on September 1, 2025, confirmed that all violations had been resolved.

The property located at 11560 Harper is actively enrolled in the Greenlight Program, has a business license, and a certificate of compliance that expires January 5, 2027. Additionally, at the time of the surveillance operations conducted by DPD, there was no evidence of prostitution/sex trafficking occurring at the Travelers Inn. In both hotel OTE operations, decoys were not solicited by any persons

and did not observe any prostitution activity occurring at the hotel. However, it is apparent that the building needs updates and the residents/renters are forced to live in substandard conditions. As reported by the vice teams, the rooms that were rented had a foul odor and roaches.

DPD and all enforcement agencies will continue to monitor the location and immediate areas for code violations, health and public safety concerns.