



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division
FROM: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
DATE: February 13, 2023
RE: 2% Ticket Surcharge for Events

Detroit's Arena District is regularly touted as the second busiest event venue in the Country, bringing thousand of Detroiters and non-Detroiters alike to the downtown area. While the City does see some economic benefits of these events, the ticket revenue for these events goes solely to Development/venue owners. The ability to raise capital from tickets sales could be a vital tool for increasing revenue to the City and to cover the cost and expenses with serving as the premier event and entertainment hub in the State of Michigan.

- What would be the process for establishing an Entertainment surcharge on events in the arena district?
- What municipalities have established an entertainment surcharge or similar fee and what is their revenue?
- What would be the anticipated annual revenue were a 2% surcharge approved?

Please contact Ari Ruttenberg from my office at ruttenberga@detroitmi.gov if you have any questions.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues
City Clerk