

DECEMBER 2022

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CITY OF DETROIT  
District 5



COUNCIL

Mary

PRESIDENT

**SHEFFIELD**

HAPPY  
HOLIDAYS



*“The best and most beautiful things in the world cannot be seen or even touched. They must be felt with the heart.”*

- Helen Keller



# ON THE COUNCIL TABLE



## INSIDE SCOOP



Here's what's going on with Council and things to look forward to 2023!

### **PROPERTY TAX REFORM ORDINANCE**

I proposed an ordinance to reform Detroit's property tax code. The goal of this ordinance is to make the property tax assessment and appeal process more transparent, fair, and accessible to all property owners. Major changes include removing procedural barriers, increasing transparency, and create oversight.

The reform ordinance has been drafted and is currently being approved by the Law Department. It will come back before Council once it is approved.

### **DETROIT MEDIAN INCOME ORDINANCE**

I proposed this ordinance with purpose in mind of expanding the supply of quality and truly affordable housing in Detroit. It calls for an agreement between the City of Detroit and any multi-family housing developments that receive city funding and/or incentives.

The agreement will specify the minimum number of units to be restricted and affordable to qualifying households based on **Detroit Median Income\***. This ordinance will also be coming in front of Council in the New Year.

\***Detroit Median Income (DMI)** refers to the median household income for the City of Detroit as determined by the most current 5-year data compiled by the U.S. Census Bureau.

### **RESPONSIBLE CONTRACTING ORDINANCE**

I recently proposed a Responsible Contracting Ordinance. The main purposes of the ordinance are to:

- Ensure that all contractors are evaluated in a fair way
- Ensure that unethical contractors do not receive public dollars
- Emphasize investing in Detroit
- Emphasize the need for apprenticeship programs

Most recently, Responsible Contracting came before the Budget, Finance & Audit Standing Committee and will be brought back in the New Year.

### **COUNCIL ON WINTER RECESS**

We are currently on our Winter Recess! Council will not have any Committee Meetings or Formal Session until January 3rd, 2023.

In the meantime, Council offices will still be working and hosting events. I like to take advantage of the open schedule during Recess to spend more time our community. Presidential Pop-Ups and Food Distributions are still underway so please contact my office if you'd like me to stop by your business or neighborhood.

**WE ARE HERE TO HELP YOU!** My office is available by phone and email.

**Phone:** (313) 224-4505

**Email:** councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.com

# ON THE COUNCIL TABLE



## RECENT MEMOS



Often, my office submits memorandums to get official answers to pressing questions of our residents. My recent memos and resolutions include:

### **DDOT BILL OF RIGHTS RESOLUTION**

I was pleased to request a resolution in support of the proposed DDOT Bill of Rights that Detroit People's Platform presented to my office. This Bill of Rights enumerates the community's basic expectations from Detroit's transit department based on input received from focus groups and essential bus riders.

The resolution was approved during formal session on November 22nd. Through this resolution, Council affirms its commitment to residents of this city that rely on public transit as their sole means of transportation.

### **COUNCIL APPROVAL OF NEIGHBORHOOD LOT PURCHASES**

Currently, the DLBA **Neighborhood Lots Program** allows homeowners to purchase vacant lots near their property from the Landbank. Once purchased, these lots can be used for gardening and other neighborhood improvement projects.

In order to purchase the lot, the purchaser must have the endorsement of their registered Block Club, a DLBA Community Partner, or their District Manager or Deputy District Manager. I requested an amendment to the program that would authorize City Councilmembers as endorsers as well. This request will be brought back before Council in the New Year.

### **RIGHT TO COUNSEL UPDATE**

I recently submitted a memorandum requesting a status update on Right to Counsel funding and the establishment of the Office of Eviction Defense.

Last month, the City selected the United Community Housing Coalition (UCHC) to manage eviction defense. Next, the contract with UCHC will come before Council for approval.

The new Office of Eviction Defense will be funded for the next 3-years with \$6 million in ARPA funding. Separately, the Gilbert Family Foundation has pledged \$12 million over the next three years to provide eviction legal defense

### **TESTIMONIAL RESOLUTION**

I presented Mr. George Barnes with Testimonial Resolution. He has owned Heritage Optical here in the city since 1975. He was Michigan's first Black optical center owner.



**Pictured:** Mr. George Barnes standing with Councilmembers, holding his Testimonial Resolution.





**DETROIT CITY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 5  
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT  
MARY SHEFFIELD**



**Statement on the Proposed Transdev Contract for Paratransit Services**



Anyone who knows me and has experienced the way I engage citizens on major initiatives or contracts before City Council, knows that I am very intentional about listening to residents' concerns and finding solutions before approving items. With that said, Council has been placed in an untenable position with the proposed Transdev contract. We, as a City and DDOT as well as the providers, are not in position to proceed with providing this essential service to our most vulnerable residents without the assistance of Transdev or a similar company. If Council were to vote down today's contract we would have to cut para-transit services by 70% according to the Detroit Department of Transportation Director.

Therefore, I am voting to approve these contracts today but I will remain committed to ensuring Detroiters, especially those who's quality of life is largely dependent upon access to reliable para-transit services, have their voices heard and their rights respected throughout the process. In that vein, I will be pushing forward with establishing the Transportation Bill of Rights. I will also work closely with DDOT to monitor services, factor in customer satisfaction into the performance matrix and react quickly to make adjustments if the services provided miss the mark. Despite the place we find or ourselves in with this contract, I am keenly aware of our ability as a City to cut ties with Transdev based on performance and I stand ready to exercise this option, in the not too distance future, if substantial improvements aren't made and objectives are routinely not being met.

**Statement on Support for Police Labor Agreement with Raises for Officers**

As it has been widely known decades in the City of Detroit, attrition among the rank and file at the Detroit Police Department far exceeds the national average due to the disparity in the pay between our officers and officers from nearly all other departments across the Nation. That's precisely why over 4 years ago now, I requested the Legislative Policy Division provide a report which outlines potential revenue sources to increase the starting, and average pay, for DPD's rank and file to the national average and made that initiative a part of inaugural People's Bills. At that time, I even explored the possibility of requiring developers to repay a portion of the tax abatements they receive into a fund dedicated to increasing the pay of rank and file DPD officers. More recently, many of my colleagues and I requested the funds earmarked for the expansion of Shotspotter technology be used for the recruitment and retention of police officers.

So today is not only a great day for Detroit Police Officers but it is a great day for all of us for whom they risk their lives, day in and day out, trying to protect. The pay increases and new contract is long overdue, and I am proud to have stood up for the men and women in blue who represent some of Detroit's finest public servants. I am also grateful that their labor representatives and membership had the foresight to allow the City to recoup the cost of training from officers who opt to leave to go to other municipalities shortly after they received the world-class training our academy offers. This new contract put the Detroit's Police Department on more solid ground with respect to our ability to recruit, train and retain officers. In addition, it will go a long way to improving morale amongst the officers and ultimately, I hope, result in safer communities.

I look forward to continuing to honor and respect our everyday heroes through sound public policy and the approval of compensation packages that illustrate our collective appreciation.

*Council President Mary Sheffield represents the 5th District, which covers the lower eastside, downtown, the riverfront and central portions of Detroit. She was first elected to office in 2013 and is the youngest person ever elected to City Council in the history of Detroit. She was elected as the City's youngest Council President in January of 2022.*



# Keeping up with the President



## **NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION FUND GRANT AWARDS**

We were overjoyed to announce the first 34 recipients to receive the Neighborhood Beautification Program (NBP) grants. The grants awarded range from \$500 to \$15,000.

The NBP grants provide funding for Detroit-based neighborhood associations, block clubs, and organizations that currently own the property where they want to carry out a project.

For those hoping to beautify their community but do not own the land, the program will assist organizations with purchasing or leasing vacant lots owned by the Detroit Land Bank. For more information, residents can e-mail Wayne Metro at [NBG@waynemetrol.org](mailto:NBG@waynemetrol.org) or call (313) 388-9799.

**WANT IN?** The next application round opens early next year. To learn more, visit [waynemetrol.org/neighborhood-beautification-grant](https://waynemetrol.org/neighborhood-beautification-grant)

## **CONVERSATIONS WITH CP: NORTH END EDITION**

I held November's "Conversations" meeting, joined by Avanath Capital Management. We invited the developers to get an in-depth update on the North End Landing Project development. The goal was to make sure the community was included on the progress and able to hold meaningful dialogue on next steps. The meeting allowed for community members to engage with developers.

The development team presented with an overview on the projects and an estimated project timeline. The meeting finished with a dynamic Q&A session.

**UP NEXT:** My next Conversations with Council President meeting will be held in January 2023. See you at the top of the year!





# Keeping up with the President



## ANNUAL TURKEY DRIVE

It's my favorite time of year! Giving Season ♥

Partnering with the Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, we were able to host our annual Turkey Drive just before Thanksgiving. Joined by my team, the Kappas, many donors and volunteers, and a little snow, we passed out hundreds of turkeys and other Thanksgiving meal favorites.

**UP NEXT:** I am hosting a Toy Drive later this month. More details to come!



## CRAIN'S 40 UNDER 40

I was honored to be selected as one of Crain's Detroit 2022 40 Under 40! Every year, Crains honors Detroiters that have made their mark in the city before the age of 40.

Crain's is a Detroit headquartered business, which makes the honor even greater. Be sure to support them at [CrainsDetroit.com](https://www.crainsdetroit.com).

This acknowledgement and making history with the City Council are definitely things that I am proud of, but I am most proud of the work and the impact that I've been able to accomplish in improving the quality of life for Detroiters. Wherever the residents of Detroit choose to put me, I will serve.

“Everybody can be great because everybody can serve.”  
- Martin Luther King, Jr





# Keeping up with the President



## **DDG DETROIT AGLOW ANNUAL FUNDRAISER**

Each November, Downtown Detroit Partnership (DDP) hosts a fundraising event to support their ongoing improvements to help grow Downtown Detroit. This same weekend, DDP also presented Detroit's 19th annual Tree Lighting.

The mission of the DDP is to cultivate economic and social impact in Downtown Detroit by connecting public, private and philanthropic sectors, providing stewardship of public spaces and developing programs that engage and benefit all.

They have served the City of Detroit for over 100 years and 80% of their funding goes to Business Improvement Zone funding.

**PICTURED:** Eric Larson, the CEO of DDP and I at the fundraiser. To learn more about DDP, visit [downtowndetroit.org](http://downtowndetroit.org)

## **UNIVERSOUL CIRCUS RINGMASTER**

I had a blast as the Ringmaster at this year's UniverSoul Circus Opening Night!

The UniverSoul Circus has been performing for over 25 years. They feature acts from different cultures all around the world. Beyond their incredible talent, I'm also proud of the work that they do for community. Annually, they host a "Family Open House" for those experiencing homelessness. They also have philanthropic efforts to fight hunger, fight cancer, and recognize outstanding leaders.

This circus is fun-packed, inspiring, and enjoyable for all ages. I'm so glad that we were able to be back in-person for the first time since 2019.

**ICYMI:** Missed the show? Visit [universoulcircus.com/detroit](http://universoulcircus.com/detroit) to learn about more of their upcoming tour dates. They offer a 25% discount for kids.





# Save the Date



Council President  
**MARY SHEFFIELD** ANNUAL  
Community Holiday Party

**Wednesday**  
**December 14, 2022**  
6-8 PM

**Pistons Performance Center**  
6201 2nd Avenue  
Detroit, MI 48202

**FREE FOOD**

**GOOD MUSIC**

**HOLIDAY GIFTS**

**Let's Get Jolly!**

**Karaoke Competition**  
**Hustle with Fast Freddie**

Mary Sheffield Council President

Kindly RSVP to (313) 224-4505 or [councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov)

**ADULTS ONLY**





# Save the Date



SPECIAL GUEST  
**ICE WEAR  
VEZZO**

COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
**MARY  
SHEFFIELD**



# *Holiday* **TOY GIVEAWAY**

**CHILDREN MUST BE PRESENT! TOYS WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!**



## **MONDAY DECEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup> AT 4PM**

SPONSORED BY



### **DURFEE INNOVATION CENTER**

2470 COLLINGWOOD ST DETROIT, MI 48206

PARTNER



**To donate toys in advance or for questions please call (313) 224-4505**

# Save the Date



## End of Year HOPE Application Events

The City of Detroit, in partnership with the HOPE Counseling Network, is hosting HOPE Application Assistance Events. Completing the Homeowners Property Exemption (HOPE) application may reduce your current year tax obligation. The HOPE application is also the first step toward receiving financial assistance for back property taxes. For more information, visit [detroitmi.gov/hope](https://detroitmi.gov/hope)

**THE DEADLINE TO APPLY FOR HOPE IN 2022 IS  
DECEMBER 12!**

To schedule an appointment, visit [detroithope.timetap.com](https://detroithope.timetap.com)  
or call **(313) 244-0274**

**Masks Required.**

### DECEMBER 5

**Patton Recreation Center**  
2301 Woodmere St.  
Detroit, MI 48209

### DECEMBER 9

**Samaritan Center**  
5555 Conner St.  
Detroit, MI 48213

### DECEMBER 12

**Wayne Metro  
Community Action Agency**  
7310 Woodward Ave.  
Detroit, MI 48202

### REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Recorded proof of ownership
- Current photo ID for ALL ADULTS in the home
- Proof of residency for ALL MINORS in the home
- Proof of income for ALL ADULTS AND MINORS in the home
- 2021 Federal and State tax returns for ALL ADULTS REQUIRED TO FILE

To schedule an appointment, visit [detroithope.timetap.com](https://detroithope.timetap.com)  
or call **(313) 244-0274**

For more information, visit [detroitmi.gov/hope](https://detroitmi.gov/hope)



# Community Updates

**ON AIR**

YA GIRL  
CHERON



LISTEN LIVE  
**TUESDAY**  
@ 2:10PM

MARY  
SHEFFIELD



# WHAT'S POPPIN

WITH  
**THE PRESIDENT**



MARY SHEFFIELD, DETROIT CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT, WILL JOIN YA GIRL  
CHERON TO ADDRESS THE ISSUES THAT CONCERN YOU THE MOST.  
SUBMIT YOUR QUESTIONS AT [MIX923FM.COM](http://MIX923FM.COM)



# News You Can Use

COUNCIL PRESIDENT **MARY SHEFFIELD**

## **VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS**



To participate, go to  
Zoom and enter the  
following information:

Meeting ID:

**979 8806 9636**

Passcode: **594257**

Join by Phone

**312-626-6799**

**301-715-8592**



Join Council President Sheffield  
and staff via Zoom and  
Facebook Live for our weekly  
virtual office hours.



# District 5 Business Spotlight!

## See You Tomorrow

**see you  
tomorrow™**

**NORTH END · DETROIT**

**See You Tomorrow** is District 5's newest brunch restaurant located in the North End. It opened in November after much anticipation. **SYT** is a fast-casual brunch cafe, offering a diverse and tasty menu without the usual wait.

Some menu highlights include their egg scrambles, chicken & waffles, and salmon croquettes. They have several vegetarian options as well. **SYT** was also awarded a Motor City Match grant, which helped them to rent the new space. They are open Tuesday-Sunday every week. Be sure to visit them for breakfast or brunch!

View their menu and order online at [sytdet.com](http://sytdet.com).

**SEE YOU TOMORROW** IS LOCATED AT 7760  
WOODWARD AVE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48202



# STAY CONNECTED

**Stay Engaged.  
Stay Informed.  
Stay Connected.**

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468311**

Subscribe to receive Policy Updates,  
Events, and much more from  
**Council President Mary Sheffield**

Keep up with me on Social Media!

 @MarySheffield

 @MsMarySheffield

 **MarySheffieldCityCouncilPresident**



*Happy Holidays to you all!*

*I pray that your holidays are full of  
love and warmth. May the New  
Year bring you joy and abundance!*

*Detroit, I look forward to serving  
you in 2023.*

