

February 2023

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CITY OF DETROIT
District 5



COUNCIL

Mary

PRESIDENT

SHEFFIELD



“I have learned over the years that when one’s mind is made up, this diminishes fear; Knowing what must be done does away with fear.”



— Rosa Parks

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

“

When I dare to be powerful, to use my strength in the service of my vision, then it becomes less and less important whether I am afraid.

AUDRE LORDE
POET AND ACTIVIST

celebrating
**BLACK
HISTORY
MONTH**



MARY SHEFFIELD
DETROIT CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

ON THE COUNCIL TABLE

INSIDE SCOOP

Here are a few items at the table in the month of February:

REPARATIONS TASKFORCE NOMINATIONS

I have made my nominations for the Reparations Taskforce.

- Keith Williams, Co-Chair
- Lauren Hood, Co-Chair
- Dorian Tyus, ad hoc working coordinator
- JoAnn Watson, ad hoc working coordinator
- Gregory Hicks, at large seat

Nominees are being interviewed weekly in the Internal Operations Standing Committee. Once all nominees are interviewed, Council will vote on the official nominees and establish the Taskforce.

MEMOS SUBMITTED

Recently, my office has submitted several memorandums to get official answers to pressing questions of our residents. Our recent inquiries include:

- Downtown Development Authority Report
- Proof of LGTO Bond Public Notice Compliance
- Initiation of Auditor General Appointment Process
- Update on Rodent Control in Virginia Park
- Community Lot Endorsement Resolution
- Income Protection Ordinance
- Rent Control

I will keep you all updated as I receive responses to these requests. Email me at councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov if there are any memorandums you'd like my office to submit.

RIGHT TO COUNSEL CONTRACT

In May 2022, the Right to Counsel Ordinance that I sponsored was approved by Council. The ordinance requires that full legal representation be provided to all eligible Detroit residents facing eviction.

This contract is for \$4.9 million and will be 100% ARPA funded. If approved, the contract will go through June 2025. The City's Law Department estimates that this funding alone will provide services to over 5700 evictees. The Gilbert Family Foundation has also pledged \$13 million to eviction defense over the next three years.

The contract will be voted on at Formal Session on Tuesday, February 7 at 10am.

SPIRIT OF DETROIT AWARDS

January was National Human Trafficking Awareness Month. With the greatest honor, I presented Spirit of Detroit Awards to local human trafficking survivors and volunteer.



Pictured: Council President presenting a Spirit of Detroit Award to April, a HT Survivor.

Learn more on the next page!

Keeping up with the President



ALTERNATIVES FOR GIRLS

January was Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human Trafficking refers to both forced labor and sex trafficking. Globally, an estimated 27.6 million adults and children are subjected to human trafficking. Trafficking doesn't have a specific look or criteria. It can even happen within a family home.

Alternatives for Girls is a shelter and assistance center here in Detroit. I recently visited and was able to learn more about trafficking, what to look for, and how to help. I'm thankful for **Alternatives for Girls** and other local organizations that help our youth and vulnerable avoid violence, teen pregnancy and exploitation.

If you or someone you know needs help, you can contact Alternatives for Girls at (888) 234-3919 or visit alternativesforgirls.org.

CONVERSATIONS WITH COUNCIL PRESIDENT

I hosted my monthly "Conversations with Council President" meeting. During this meeting we reviewed some 2022 highlights and developed our budget and policy priorities for 2023. We conducted polls and took note of each public comment.

The results of the polls showed that our residents' top budget priorities were home repair and alley clean up. Your top policy priorities are property tax reform and water affordability.

I am always grateful for those who come to our meetings and share each of their unique perspectives. It is my duty as Council President to advocate for the needs of our residents. As budget season approaches, I will keep you all informed.

ICYMI: I host a Conversations meeting each month and a virtual office hours meeting every Monday. Text **MSDET5** to **468311** to subscribe to event alerts!



Keeping up with the President

21ST ROUND OF MOTOR CITY MATCH GRANT AWARDS



Along with Mayor Duggan and other City Leaders, we were able to award 17 new businesses and 15 existing businesses with the 21st round of Motor City Match Grants!

Of the businesses rewarded, 74% were minority owned and 68% were owned by Detroit residents.

Small businesses are an integral part of what makes Detroit special. I am ecstatic that this round of Motor City Match Awardees is receiving the largest amount of funds from the program to date.

LEARN MORE: To learn more about this round's awardees or if you're interested in applying for the next round of grants, visit

MotorCityMatch.com

SENIOR FOOD DISTRIBUTIONS AND PRESIDENTIAL POP-UPS

Every Friday, I make it a point to go out into the community to visit our seniors and local businesses. Spending quality time with my seniors was one of the highlights of my whole month!

Last month, we delivered hot meals to seniors once a week. In addition to food distribution we played some rounds of bingo, handed out resource guides, and heard the concerns of the seniors.

I'm also proud to say that all meals provided to seniors were purchased from local restaurants.

INTERESTED? I would love to stop by and see you! I try to visit a new senior community and local business each week. Contact my office at **(313) 224-4505** if you want me to stop by!



Stay Connected



Skilled Trades TASK FORCE MEETING

Our skilled trade unions are looking for men and women interested in rebuilding Detroit. Come and learn how you can apply for their tuition-free apprenticeship programs and start your career in construction.



Mary Waters
City Council At-Large
Skilled Trades Task Force Chair



Coleman A. Young II
City Council At-Large



Mary Sheffield
City Council President

**WEDNESDAY
FEBRUARY 15
4-6 p.m.**

**Laborers International
Union Hall**

2161 W. Grand Blvd.
Detroit, Michigan 48208

For more information,
contact Joanna Underwood at **(313) 628-2363** or joanna.underwood@detroitmi.gov.

Stay Connected

OMBUDSMAN BRUCE SIMPSON'S
COMMUNITY LEADERS' VIRTUAL TOWN HALL
5PM - 7PM | THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16TH

Mary Sheffield
Detroit City Council President

Gary Brown
Director of DWSD

Monica Lewis-Patrick
President & CEO
We The People of Detroit

Shama Mounzer
Executive Director,
Wayne Metropolitan
Community Action
Agency Empowerment
& Integration Services

All Community Leaders of groups/organizations who are doing the work in their community and who have heard from their residents and are interested in improving the quality of life in their community are welcome to register and join this meeting virtually.

Special Guest, Detroit City Council President Mary Sheffield, will share what's happening Legislatively. DWSD, We The People of Detroit, and Wayne Metro will join the meeting and share valuable information to ensure the DWSD Life Line Plan is available to those who need assistance with their water bill.

<https://cityofdetroit.zoom.us/j/85070051724> or call (312) 626-6799
Meeting ID: 850 7005 1724

We encourage you to Click on the Link Below to Register:
Ombudsman Simpson's Virtual Community Leaders Meeting Registration Form

Stay Informed



Water & Sewerage
Department

DWSD



LIFELINE PLAN

Detroit's First Water Affordability Plan

The DWSD Lifeline Plan provides income-eligible enrolled Detroiters up to 4,500 gallons of water (equivalent to 6 CCF) every month at a fixed rate based on their household income.

Water bill debt **GETS ERASED!** HOW IT WORKS

The **DWSD Lifeline Plan** has three tiers for qualifying households:

\$18

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill if household income is **at or below 135% of Federal Poverty Level (FPL) or SNAP/FAP**

\$43

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill if household income is **above 135% of FPL but at or below 150% of FPL**

\$56

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill if household income is **above 150% of FPL but at or below 200% of FPL**

If water usage exceeds 4,500 gallons (equivalent to 6 CCF) per month, the household will be charged for the additional usage based on DWSD's new inclining block rate structure.

WHO IS ELIGIBLE?

Income-eligible Detroit households include:

- The 2,500 households currently enrolled in WRAP will be auto-enrolled in DWSD'S Lifeline Plan
 - The 19,000-plus households who were previously in WRAP can immediately qualify and will be contacted by Wayne Metropolitan Community Action Agency
- Low-income-eligible households
- Households receiving SNAP/FAP benefits.



Qualifying residents can enroll with Wayne Metro!

CALL 313-386-9727

◀◀ or scan this code to apply today!

www.WayneMetro.org/DWSDLifeline



Wayne Metropolitan
Community Action Agency

Stay Warm

DETROIT WARMING CENTERS



MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

THE FOLLOWING WARMING CENTERS ARE
OPEN AND AVAILABLE UNTIL FEBRUARY 5TH:

24-HOUR WARMING CENTERS

1

Farwell Recreation Center
2711 E. Outer Drive
Wednesday, February 1st at 11 AM to
Sunday, February 5th at 8 AM

2

Patton Recreation Center
2301 Woodmere
Wednesday, February 1st at 8 AM to
Sunday, February 5th at 8 AM

3

Cass Community Social Services
11850 Woodrow Wilson
313-883-2277 | For: Families and Single Women

4

**Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries
Mack Warming Center**
11037 Mack Ave
313-331-8990 | For: Families and Single Women

5

**Detroit Rescue Mission Ministries
Third Street Warming Center**
3535 Third Ave
313-993-6703 | For: Single Men

**ALL THREE
FACILITIES ARE
SUPERVISED
AT ALL TIMES**

Individuals, families and youth seeking shelter or warming center placements can call (313) 305-0311 from 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Fridays and 11 a.m. - 5 p.m. Wednesdays for assistance.

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



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!

Joe Louis Southern Kitchen



Craving a plate of homestyle soul food? Add Joe Louis Southern Kitchen into your future dining plans! This black-owned southern kitchen recently opened in New Center during the pandemic.

They offer delicious and classic options for brunch, lunch, and dinner. Open 7 days a week, stop by Joe Louis Southern Kitchen for an unbeatable bowl of shrimp & grits or one of their vegetarian options.

Order online or book them for your next event at joelouissouthernkitchen.com.

**JOE LOUIS SOUTHERN KITCHEN IS LOCATED AT
6549 WOODWARD AVE, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48207**



STAY CONNECTED

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

**TEXT MSDET5 TO
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



*“Never be limited by other
people's limited imaginations.”*

— Dr. Mae Jemison

