

# **MEDIA ADVISORY**

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**For more info contact:**

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**John Clark (313) 224-4505**

## **COCKREL, JR. SPEARHEADS PLAN TO GOVERN VENDING IN PUBLIC PARKS**

Detroit City council today passed an ordinance amendment tightening up the regulations governing vending in public parks during events.

Previously city law prohibited vending in public parks at all times. This ordinance was not always enforced in an evenhanded, common sense way, according to Council President Pro Tem Ken Cockrel, Jr. who sponsored the amendment.

Some organizations were allowed to host major events in city parks where food, clothing, toys and other items were sold even though they had not secured city approval. In other cases, groups who planned similar events were denied after approaching the city for approval first.

Under Cockrel's amendment, organizations will be permitted to hold events and vend at parks but must first seek approval for their vending from the Parks & Recreation Department.

"The goal is to allow and make it easy for organizations who want to have vendors at their events," said Cockrel. "But at the same time we want to ensure that the Recreation Department is monitoring and approving what's being sold."

Cockrel pointed out that some annual events like Unity In The Community held at Clark Park and the Concert of Colors are so successful in part because they incorporate vendors who sell food and other items.