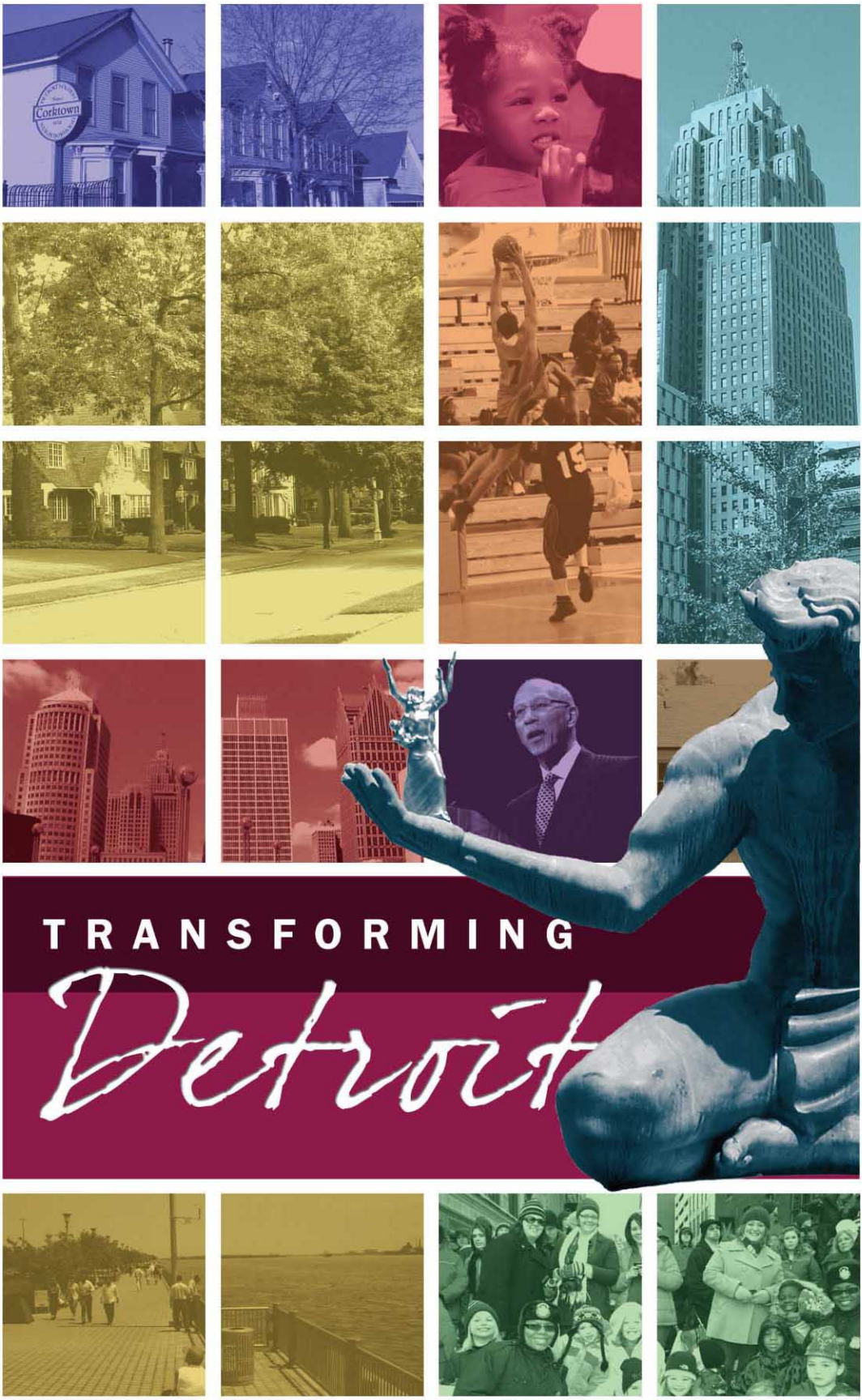



# TRANSFORMING *Detroit*

**Dave Bing, Mayor**

# Introduction

**The City of Detroit** has a long and storied history. It has faced adversity and struggles, but Detroit's indomitable spirit has always prevailed. Even today, our economic conditions pose a challenge, but this challenge is also an opportunity. We have an opportunity to transform perceptions, transform neighborhoods, transform lives. We have made some progress already. Let's work together to transform Detroit into a city that reflects our ability, our pride, our potential. This starts in areas that affect all of our lives: City services, transportation, recreation, public safety, neighborhoods, economic investment, and fiscal stability.

## NEIGHBOR-HOODS

*The neighborhoods of Detroit are its heart and soul. Mayor Bing has made stabilizing and strengthening Detroit neighborhoods a top priority and launched innovative programs like the Detroit Works Project and Project 14.*

# Now

## Detroit Works Project

*In July 2011, Mayor Bing separated the Detroit Works Project into two tracks – short-term actions and long-term planning. The short-term actions track is managed by the Mayor's Office and focuses on using data, analysis, and community input to improve the quality of life for citizens living and working in three demonstration areas: 1) Hubbard Farms/Southwest Detroit; 2) Boston Edison/North End/Virginia Park; and 3) Bagley, Detroit Golf Club, Green Acres, Palmer Woods, Sherwood Forest and University District. As a result, the City has been strategic in the deployment of some services and resources such as code enforcement, grass cutting, demolition, home rehabilitation programs, and infrastructure improvements.*

*The long-term planning track is managed by the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation, with oversight from a steering committee assembled by the Mayor. The focus is on developing a strategic plan to be completed in September 2012.*

## Project 14

*Named after police code 14 – signifying a return to normal operations – Project 14 is a pilot project designed to encourage police officers to purchase homes and live in the city of Detroit. Project 14 will provide homeownership opportunities to police officers through various partnerships. So far, 15 police officers are participating in the program. The goal of the project is to deter crime and increase public safety in neighborhoods; strengthen community relations; and increase the tax base.*

*Project 14 properties are available in East English Village, Boston Edison, Green Acres and North Rosedale Park.*

*Future plans call for the City to extend the program to firefighters, and EMS and Homeland Security employees.*

## Community Access Centers

- *The Community Access Centers (CAC) in 2011 held eight community education workshops focusing on planning special events, and starting and maintaining successful block clubs and community organizations.*
- *CAC, along with the Recreation and General Services departments, assisted with more than 600 community cleanup and beautification projects by providing bags, gloves, tools and volunteers to many of the groups.*

## Cities of Service

*In January 2010, the Bing Administration joined nine other cities in accepting the Cities of Service Leadership Grant. These cities were charged with leveraging citizen service strategies, addressing local needs, and ultimately making government more effective.*

*Major accomplishments of the Cities of Service program:*

- *Signed up 1,127 volunteers, registered 127 organizations, and posted 65 unique volunteer opportunities through BelieveinDetroit.org*
- *Planted nearly 7,000 trees in Detroit neighborhoods*
- *Registered more than 500 community pride events*
- *Facilitated the adoption of more than 200 green spaces*
- *Transferred the volunteer Citizen Radio Patrols to the Detroit Police Department to improve the coordination of community policing activities*
- *Engaged more than 80 youth and 35 mentors for the Team Bing Mentoring initiative*

# Future

- CAC created a Small Business Affairs Manager position to assist with establishing and supporting area business associations and will hold a business association workshop in April 2012.
- In March 2012, CAC will host a Community Resource Fair to inform participants on how City government works, department responsibilities, and how to become active in the community.

## Keep Detroit Beautiful Campaign

The City of Detroit expects to become a certified member of the Keep America Beautiful program in spring 2012. Keep Detroit Beautiful will focus on litter prevention, recycling, and cleanup efforts, and will incorporate Motor City Makeover, Adopt-A-Shelter, Adopt-A-Park, Adopt-A-Lot, Adopt-A-Garden and the Adjacent Lot programs under one umbrella to simplify the volunteer process.

# PUBLIC SAFETY

*No matter who you talk to – residents, business owners, youth or seniors – improving public safety in Detroit is a top priority. The Bing Administration is equally committed to protecting Detroiters and is focused on increasing police patrols, and curbing youth violence.*

*Now*

## Police Department – Virtual Precincts

- *A critical part of public safety is an efficient, responsive police force. In an effort to get more officers on the street and make the 9-1-1 system more efficient, the Detroit Police Department implemented the Virtual Precinct citywide in February. From 4 p.m. to 8 a.m., officers, previously assigned to inside administrative duties, are now patrolling.*
- *As part of the Virtual Precinct, residents can call the Telephone Crime Reporting Unit for non-emergency matters, allowing officers to remain on patrol and available to respond to priority emergencies. The unit will have increased staff and is available 24 hours, seven days a week.*

- *All police stations will remain open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The public may still go to a station and file a report by utilizing phones in the station lobby that will directly dial the Telephone Crime Reporting Unit between 4 p.m. and 8 a.m.*

## Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

*The Youth Violence Prevention Initiative (YVPI) is another groundbreaking initiative to reduce crime and improve public safety. The YVPI is committed to developing a comprehensive plan to prevent youth and gang violence in Detroit. The steering committee includes Detroit youth, law enforcement, workforce development, public health, education, faith-based, business, and community leaders.*

- *YVPI steering committee convened listening sessions on adult involvement, education, employment, and law enforcement.*
- *After reviewing violent crime and emergency response data, organizers selected Cody, Osborn and Denby as the focus areas.*
- *The City was awarded a $5.7-million Community Oriented Policing grant by the U.S. Department of Justice to hire or rehire 25 Detroit police officers to increase manpower in those areas.*
- *As a part of its outreach, YVPI held a town hall and basketball game and rally to engage Detroit youth and their families.*

## Detroit Fire Department

*The Detroit Fire Department is offering free smoke detectors and home safety inspections to reduce the number of fires and fire deaths in the city. Fire officials attribute the decrease in fire fatalities to the education and outreach effort. Residents can receive the smoke detectors and a home safety inspection by calling (313) 596-2968.*

*Since 2011, the Department has installed 1,094 smoke detectors and 194 carbon monoxide detectors in homes.*

## Angels' Night Success

*The 2011 Angels' Night campaign was the most successful ever as thousands of dedicated employees and caring volunteers joined in the effort.*

- *Number of fires during the three-day Halloween period declined from 169 in 2010 to 94 in 2011 – a 44% reduction.*
- *The total fires over the three-day period was the lowest since 1984.*

## Future

City officials will open the new public safety headquarters in July 2013 to house Police and Fire departments, Detroit Building Authority, Michigan State Police Forensic Laboratory and the Information Technology Services Department. The new headquarters will include 475,000 square feet, seven floors, a fitness center and store/café. Renovations to the former MGM Casino will cost $55 million.

# ECONOMIC INVESTMENT

*A number of significant developments were announced in 2011 as investors recognize the economic opportunities available in Detroit.*

- *Rock Ventures LLC, a real estate development group led by Quicken Loans Founder and Chairman Dan Gilbert, has purchased nine properties, three parking structures and one parking lot in the heart of downtown Detroit's Woodward corridor since the beginning of 2011.*

  *The properties have a total of 2.1 million square feet of space and nearly 3,500 parking spaces.*

  *The list of developments includes properties at 1500, 1520, and 1528 Woodward Avenue, the Madison Theatre Building, the Chase Tower, the First National Building, the Dime Building and the former Federal Reserve Building.*

- *Meijer announced plans to build two Meijer stores in Detroit. One store will anchor The Gateway Marketplace at Woodward and 8 Mile Road. This represents the first major retail center to be built in Detroit in the last 50 years. The store will feature retail, grocery, and garden centers.*

  *The second Meijer location will be at the site of the old Redford High School on W. Grand River in northwest Detroit.*

- *Whole Foods announced plans to build a store at John R and Mack in Midtown.*

WHOLE FOODS® MARKET

# CITY SERVICES

*At the top of Mayor Bing's agenda is improving the quality of life for Detroit residents. To accomplish that goal, the City will spend tens of millions of dollars to improve the quality and efficiency of City services.*

*Now*

## Department of Public Works

- *The Department of Public Works revised refuse collection routes because of population decreases, resulting in drivers serving 1,000 households on average.*
- *In 2011, DPW installed more than 5,000 sidewalk ramps to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. More than 12,000 ramps have been installed since 2009.*
- *Crews completed a two-mile greenway with landscaping, bike racks, benches, lighting, and sidewalk improvements throughout the Wayne State University, Cultural Center and Detroit Medical Center areas.*
- *Bike lanes and corresponding signage were installed in Corktown, Mexicantown, and other southwest Detroit neighborhoods to promote healthy lifestyles.*

## Transportation

*The City of Detroit knows how very critical a reliable bus system is to residents. As part of its commitment to best meeting the public transportation needs of residents, Mayor Bing appointed Ron Freeland as the new CEO of the Detroit Department of Transportation. Freeland previously served as an executive and board chair of various bus, ports and rail systems in Maryland and Virginia.*

*In addition, DDOT has purchased a new fleet of 46 buses. The new buses are powered by the world's cleanest and most efficient diesel engines and also emit up to 90% fewer exhaust emissions.*

## Public Lighting

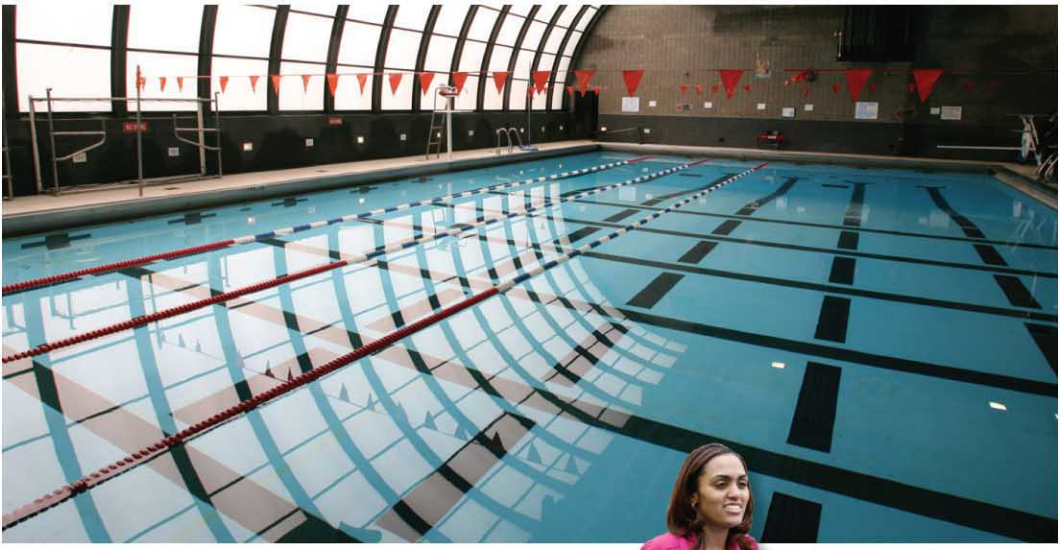
- *The Department repaired 7,600 street lights in neighborhoods and installed 900 energy-efficient LED street lights in neighborhoods and the downtown area.*

## Recreation

- *Recreation opened the Riverside Park boat launch for the first time in ten years. The $257,438 renovation project included launch support building improvements, a new parking lot, entry gates, floating docks, and landscape improvements.*
- *Spent $2 million to renovate Crowell Recreation Center, which included new mechanical and electrical systems, new roof, and locker room renovations. Penz Playlot received new play equipment, fencing, concrete walkways and benches at a cost of $185,211.*
- *Rackham Golf Course was selected as the best golf course in Oakland County in 2011.*
- *Received $2 million grant to stabilize fish habitat around Belle Isle.*

## General Services

- *Through its Adopt-A-Park Program, the General Services Department assisted several community organizations and Detroit corporations in installing new playgrounds at Eliza Howell Park, Manning-Beland and Elmwood Central United Way.*
- *Used a $100,000 grant to plant trees in the Rouge River watershed.*



# Future

- The Department of Public Works (DPW) will expand curbside recycling to more than 11,000 households on the northwest side in the Detroit Works Project demonstration areas.
- DPW, in partnership with Next Energy, will expand its efforts to encourage residents to recycle.
- The Recreation Department will complete $2 million in renovations at Lasky and Williams recreation centers with funds provided by the General Motors Foundation.
- Plans call for $400,000 in renovations at both Lipke and Lasky playfields.
- Public Lighting plans to install 580 energy-efficient street lights in six neighborhoods.
- Come Spring 2012, homeowners and contractors will be able to apply for permits and schedule inspections online with the Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department. With the click of a mouse, individuals will be able to get plumbing, electrical, mechanical and building permits and schedule inspections for commercial and residential structures. The online process is expected to streamline operations, save time and money for customers and increase revenues for the City.

# FISCAL STABILITY

*While the City has made strides in improving City services, community engagement, and public safety and stimulating economic investment, fiscal stability has been the biggest challenge facing the Bing Administration.*

*The Bing Administration has worked tirelessly implementing structural reforms as a part of a financial plan designed to address the City's financial crisis and prevent the takeover of City operations by an emergency financial manager. The financial plan, developed in December 2011, projected $102 million in savings this fiscal year and $258 million in the next fiscal year.*

*In February 2012, Mayor Dave Bing and his negotiating team reached tentative agreements with police officers, firefighters and a coalition of unions to modify existing collective bargaining agreements.*

*The tentative agreements with police unions will save an estimated $44 million annually and include a wage freeze until 2015, increases in health care co-pays and restrictions to overtime.*

*The tentative agreement with the firefighters union will save an estimated $20 million a year and includes staffing and operational improvements without compromising public safety.*

*The Administration also reached a tentative agreement with a coalition representing about 6000 civilian employees. The three-year deal will generate an estimated $35 million and calls for changes in health care and pensions and a 10-percent wage cut.*

*All tentative agreements are subject to ratification by the unions' membership.*

*Other key components of the City's financial plan include:*

- *Increase taxes on corporations to 2 percent, generating $6 million in additional revenues*
- *Collect $15 million owed to the City by the Detroit Public Schools*
- *Increase retirees' contribution for medical coverage, saving $6 million this fiscal year and $33 million next fiscal year*
- *Outsource management of Detroit Department of Transportation, saving $10 million this fiscal year and $31 million next fiscal year*
- *Reduce the City's workforce through layoffs, attrition and retirements, generating savings of $14 million this fiscal year and $45 million next fiscal year*

# ETHICS & INTEGRITY

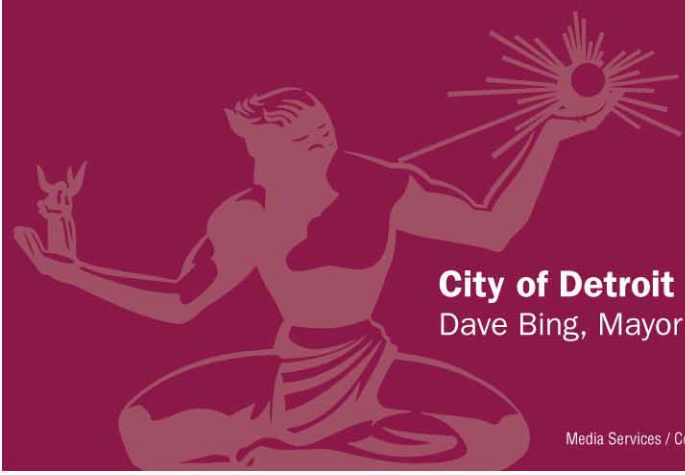
*Ethics and integrity are paramount to the Bing Administration. In order to ensure the highest level of ethics within City of Detroit government, a number of Detroit City Charter ethics provisions were adopted in November 2011. The provisions were supported by Mayor Bing and approved by voters.*

*The various provisions prohibit City officials and employees from:*

- *Participating in matters that affect their personal or financial interests.*
- *Engaging in or accepting private employment or rendering services when such service is in conflict or incompatible with the proper discharge of his or her official duties.*
- *Accepting gifts, gratuities, honoraria, or other things of value from any person or company doing business or seeking to do business with the City, or seeking official action from the City.*

*Public servants must disclose:*

- *Any financial interest that he or she or an immediate family member has in any matter pending before City Council or with any office, department or agency of the City.*
- *Any interest that he or she or an immediate family member has in real and personal property that is subject to a decision by the City.*



**City of Detroit**

Dave Bing, Mayor • Detroit City Council

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