

Dear Neighbors,

As your Council-Member-at-Large, I want to inform our citizens about the latest programs our city is offering. This newsletter has information about initiatives in our communities that highlight the progress our city is making.

One of my top priorities as your Council Member is bringing jobs to the citizens of Detroit. That's why I championed initiatives such as the Detroit Employment Solutions Center which facilitated over 1300 job placements between April and June of this year.

Our unemployment rate is now at its lowest point in 17 years.

Despite this vast improvement, there are still many Detroiters locked out of the labor market. I work my hardest for every single Detroiters, especially our most vulnerable populations. That is why I have created the Returning Citizen's Task Force, to ensure that formerly incarcerated Detroiters can successfully come home and reintegrate into society. It is imperative that these Detroiters are given the second chance that they've earned. In order to protect this right, I am working on a Fair Chance Ordinance that ensures returning citizens will not be disqualified from housing and employment.

There is still so much work to be done in the City of Detroit. It is my privilege to represent the citizens of this city as we continue our fight together.

If there is anything happening within your community that my office can help with, please let me know. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact my office. We are eager to assist you and to be involved in any community group meeting or events.

If you have any questions feel free to contact me at (313) 224-4248 or by email at [councilmemberayers@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmemberayers@detroitmi.gov).

Sincerely,

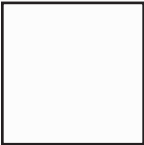


Janeé L. Ayers  
Council Member at-Large  
City of Detroit



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# Board Up Brigades

The City of Detroit in collaboration with residents and community groups in neighborhoods around the city has launched a new program called the **Board Up Brigades** to board up 11,000 blighted abandoned houses in the city over the next two years. The program began with 40 houses boarded up in the Boynton neighborhood of Southwest Detroit.

The securing of these vacant houses is part of a larger citywide initiative to demolish, rehab or board up the estimated **25,000 blighted abandoned houses** in Detroit over the next two years with an emphasis on preserving many of them for rehabilitation. Since January 2014 12,000 vacant houses were demolished and 3,000 were rehabbed.

Over the course of the next two years there is a plan for 9,000 to be demolished, 5,000 to be rehabbed and reoccupied through Land Bank Auction and Nuisance Abatement Program and 11,000 remaining vacant houses to be boarded up within two years. This \$9 million investment toward addressing blight in the city's neighborhoods is a welcome relief for many residents who has had to look at the vacant houses on their block for several years. The \$4.8 million board up program falso providing a second chance for 13 returning citizens who have been hired by the City. If there is a home in your area that needs boarding up, please talk to your local block club.

If you are a leader of a block club and would like to submit a request to have houses in your area boarded up, **please fill out this form:** <http://bit.ly/BoardUpRequest>.

If you have any other questions or concerns regarding vacant homes, feel free to contact our office so we can assist you!



## SUNDAY FAMILY FUNDAYS



### SUNDAY HOURS BEGINNING OCTOBER 8, 2017 - 1:00 - 5:00 P.M.

<b>Main Library</b> 5201 Woodward Avenue (313) 481-1378	<b>Redford Branch Library</b> 21200 Grand River (313) 481-1820	<b>Wilder Branch Library</b> 7140 E. Seven Mile Road (313) 481-1870
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JOIN US FOR FUN, FAMILY-ORIENTATED ACTIVITIES!

[www.detroitpubliclibrary.org](http://www.detroitpubliclibrary.org)





# Teacher Incentives

Detroit teachers and other school employees will now get a **50% discount in purchasing homes** from the city through the Detroit Land Bank Authority. This program is available to all school employees, regardless of if they work in the Detroit Public Schools Community District, a charter school, or a private school within the city of Detroit.

This program is aimed at getting more of the city's educators back living in Detroit, and specifically within the community that they serve. The hope of this program is to build better, more rewarding relationships between students and their educators.

The City of Detroit already provides these discounts to its employees and retirees, and has been doing so since 2015. The program has been a success, with over 1,600 employees bidding on properties from the Detroit Land Bank, and 242 properties have been acquired with the discount. The Detroit Land Bank has **over 30,000 properties in its inventory**. These properties can be viewed and bid on at [buildingdetroit.org](http://buildingdetroit.org).

Another objective of this program is to encourage more teaching candidates to apply to work in Detroit. There is still a teacher shortage in DPSCD. This program will further incentivize those positions, which includes benefits such as hiring bonuses for some hard-to-staff locations. Candidates who are interested in employment are encouraged to visit:

**[detroitk12.org/employment](http://detroitk12.org/employment)** and complete an **online application**.



## GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE PROGRAM

**The Detroit Water Sewage Department** is partnering with the Department of Public Works, the Parks and Recreation Department and other city departments and organizations to develop a holistic approach to getting storm water treated cleaner and cheaper for all Detroiters.



DETROIT  
**Water & Sewerage  
Department**

**In order to combat the large costs of storm water drainage, the City of Detroit is investing in green infrastructure program. The US Environmental Protection Agency calls green infrastructure "a cost effective, resilient approach to managing wet weather impacts that provides many environmental, social, economic, and community benefits."**

When rainfall hits our city streets, it cannot seep into the ground like it does in grassy areas. Instead it **flows into our drainage system**, carrying trash, waste, heavy metals, and other pollutants. When it instead falls in more natural areas such as a grassy park, the water is absorbed and filtered by soil and plants. When more water is filtered this way, it takes a large strain off the drainage system and inhibits flooding and system back-ups.

The City of Detroit has begun a number of **green infrastructure projects**. For example, from 2010-2015, DWSD and The Greening of Detroit planted 7,117 trees in the Upper Rouge Tributary Area. Also, as the city demolishes vacant homes properties, more land becomes available to absorb rain water. From 2010-2016, an additional 3,141 acres of land was uncovered and available to absorb rain water.

The City of Detroit is consistently searching for the most effective ways to make the lives of residents better in any way possible. Through using new technology and methods, we hope to provide a **safer, healthier place to live**. Green infrastructure is just one of the many creative ways that we are working for the people of Detroit.



# INFRASTRUCTURE

# Top 10 Blight Violations in the City

1. **Ordinance 9-1-36(a).** Failure of Owner to Obtain Certificate of Compliance. According to the property maintenance ordinance, all buildings and structures shall be required to have a certificate of compliance issued by the Buildings and Safety Engineering Department. This includes all buildings and structures required to be inspected pursuant to the Detroit City Code; and any part of a residential structure occupied pursuant to an oral or written rental contract or lease agreement for monetary compensation. This requirement shall not include one-family dwellings which are occupied by owner of the structure and the owner's immediate family and those portions of a two-family dwelling which are occupied by the owner and the owner's immediate family. Commentary: All residential rental property and commercial structures must be inspected on an annual basis. Once inspection fees are paid an inspector conducts an inspection and issues a Correction Order. The Correction Order will indicate the needed repairs, if any, and a deadline for compliance. The Certificate of Compliance is provided after a re-inspection which shows the Correction Order has been complied with. Citations under 9-1-36 are written by Inspectors with the Building and Safety Engineering Department.

2. **Ordinance 9-1-81 (a).** Failure to Register Rental Property. The owners or agents of rental property shall register all rental dwellings with the Buildings and Safety Engineering Department and obtain a certificate of registration. Certificates of registration of a rental property shall be renewed annually on the date established by the Buildings Safety Engineering and Environmental Department. Commentary: All residential rental property in the City of Detroit must be registered with the Buildings and Safety Engineering Department. There is no fee for registration. Citations under 9-1-81 (a) are written by Inspectors with the Buildings and Safety Engineering Department.

3. **Ordinance 9-1-104.** Excessive Weeds and Plant Growth. All premises and exterior property shall be maintained free from weeds or plant growth in excess of eight (8) inches and from all noxious weeds. For purposes of this section, weeds and plant growth shall include all grasses, annual plants and vegetation other than trees or shrubs, but does not include plant growth in exterior areas where flowers and gardens are maintained and cultivated. Commentary: The most common violations of this ordinance occur along the fence line at the rear of the subject property. Citations under 9-1-104 are most often written by Department of Public Works Inspectors and Police Officers.

4. **Ordinance 22-2-88(b).** Allowing Bulk Solid Waste to Lie or Accumulate. Bulk solid waste or any discernible amount of medical or hazardous waste allowed to remain or accumulate on or about the premises, its sidewalks, and adjoining public property shall be considered illegal dumping. Under 22-2-88(a) the ordinance indicates that it shall be the duty of the owner of record of any vacant or occupied property to keep such premises, its sidewalks, and all adjoining public property between the center of the street and one-half (1/2) of an alley, free of solid waste, medical waste, and hazardous waste at all times. Commentary: This section makes it illegal to store solid waste on your property. Even if the property was illegally dumped by someone else, leaving solid waste on the property could result in a violation for the property owner. Tickets can be issued if the bulk solid waste is in the street or on the berm in front of the property, in the alley behind, in the rear yard, or even in an open garage if the debris is visible from the street. Citations under 22-2-88b are most often written by Department of Public Works Inspectors and Police Officers.

5. **Ordinance 9-1-110(a).** Inoperable Motor Vehicles. It shall be unlawful to keep, park, or store inoperative or unlicensed motor vehicles on any premises or property, including any motor vehicle which is in a state of major disassembly, disrepair, or in the process of being stripped or dismantled, provided, that an individual may perform mechanical work on one (1) Motor vehicle on the premises or property as long as such work is performed inside a garage or other enclosed structure or area designed and approved for such purposes. Commentary: Inoperable or unlicensed vehicles cannot be stored in a person's yard. Vehicles with an expired or with no plate may cause the property owners to be issued a citation. Citations under 9-1-110 are most often written by Department of Public Works Inspectors and Neighborhood Police Officers. This document is provided for informational purposes only and the commentaries are non-binding. For a complete copy of the applicable ordinance, please contact the Office of the Detroit City Clerk. The designation of the listed violations as "Top Ten" is not intended to imply an order of importance or suggest non-listed violations are enforced any less vigorously than those listed. Revised 3/17 Top Ten Blight Violations in the City of Detroit

6. **Ordinance 22-2-45.** Violation of Time Limits for Containers to Remain at Curbside. Properly stored domestic solid waste shall be collected by the Department of Public Works. Owners and/or occupants of residential structures who receive curbside collection shall place approved containers on a berm area not earlier than 6:00 p.m. on the day before collection and shall remove the same not later than 9:00 p.m. on the day of collection. Commentary: The approved containers are called "Courville Containers." Containers placed at the curb too early or left too late may subject the owners and/or occupants to a violation. Citations under 22-2-45 are most often written by Department of Public Works Inspectors and Neighborhood Police Officers.

7. **Ordinance 9-1-105.** Rodent Harborage. All buildings, premises, and structures and exterior property shall be kept free from rodent harborage and infestations. Where rodents are found, they shall be promptly exterminated by approved processes which will not be injurious to human health. After extermination, proper precautions shall be taken to eliminate rodent harborage and prevent re-infestation. No building, premises, or structure shall be used for the storage or handling of solid waste, including debris, garbage, litter and rubbish, which provide a place for rodents to harbor. Commentary: When resident keep their dogs outside any feces that remains for more than a day or uneaten dog food often attracts rodents. Ordinance 22-2-21 requires animal waste to be removed from private property within twenty-four (24) hours. Citations under 9-1-105 are most often written by Department of Public Works Inspectors and Neighborhood Police Officers.

8. **Ordinance 9-1-103.** Allowing Snow and Ice to Accumulate. Snow or ice that has fallen or formed on any sidewalk in the front, rear, or on the sides of any house, premises, building or lot shall be removed within twenty-four (24) hours after the snow or ice has fallen or formed, or a quantity of salt, sand, ashes or other approved material applied to the snow or ice sufficient to render the sidewalk safe for persons to walk upon. However, snow or ice shall not be plowed, shoveled or piled from private properties, other than residential, onto the paved roadway of any city street or highway. Snow or ice plowed shoveled or brushed from any residential property or public sidewalk shall not be placed in any manner so as to interfere with public travel. Commentary: Residents and business owners must shovel their snow or otherwise make the sidewalks safe within twenty-four hours of a snow fall. Businesses who plow their lots into the street are subject to tickets under this provision. Citations under 9-1-103 are most often written by Department of Public Works Inspectors and Neighborhood Police Officers.

9. **Ordinance 9-1-82(d).** Failure to Obtain Lead Clearance. It shall be unlawful for a rental property to be occupied without a lead-clearance report being obtained and provided to the Building Safety Engineering and Environmental Department. Commentary: All rental property in the City of Detroit constructed before 1978, must be inspected. This is to protect the health and welfare of children who occupy rental property that contains lead-based paint hazards. Exposure to lead can cause serious problems for children, including learning problems, behavioral problems, and speech and language problems. Citations under 9-1-82(d) are exclusively written by Building Safety Engineering and Environmental Inspectors.

10. **Ordinance 9-1-111.** Failure to Remove Graffiti. Any graffiti on any exterior surface of any building, premises, or structure is a violation and is declared a public nuisance. The owner shall have the continuing responsibility to remove graffiti, maintain the property free of graffiti, and to restore any exterior surface that has been damaged by graffiti. Commentary: Since this ordinance was amended in 2015, hundreds of tickets have been issued and more than 30,000 illegal tags have been removed from buildings, bus shelters and electrical boxes by the General Services Department. Business owners who fail to remove graffiti in a timely manner face having thousands of dollars in removal costs added to their judgments. Citations under 9-1-111 are most often written by Building Safety Engineering and Environmental Inspectors and Neighborhood Police Officers.

**Building and Safety Engineering and Environmental Department - (313) 224-2733**  
**Department of Public Works - (313)224-3901**  
**Neighborhood Police Officers - (313) 596-2200**