

August 2022

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

CITY OF DETROIT  
District 5



COUNCIL

*Mary*

PRESIDENT

**SHEFFIELD**



“You can't lead the people if you don't love the people. You can't save the people if you don't serve the people.”

— Cornel West



# LET'S RECAP

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## 7 MONTH REVIEW

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These past 7 months flew by! Let's recap some of what I've accomplished so far as your City Council President:

- Passed the Right to Counsel Ordinance.
- Created the City's first ever Reparations Taskforce.
- Hosted the first City Council Legislative Retreat in 8 years.
- Passed Historic Amendments to the Mayor's Proposed Budget.
- Allocated \$2 million to Overassessment, with more to come!
- Introduced an Ordinance to make Juneteenth a Paid City Holiday.
- Created the Gun Violence Taskforce.
- Kicked off the Neighborhood Beautification Program.
- \$3 million increase to the annual budget for Housing Trust Fund.

These are just a few things I've been able to do as the City Council President with the help of my colleagues, and much more is coming!





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



# STATEMENT ON THE APPROVAL OF THE HUDSON COMMERCIAL REHABILITATION CERTIFICATE

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After weighing all the public input, fiscal analyses, plans and development specifics about the Hudson's Project I have decided to support the request for a Commercial Rehabilitation tax abatement for the Hudson's Site Project. Like all decisions I make on behalf of those represent, I arrived at this point after careful research, looking at the merits of the deal, and considering the sentiment of all stakeholders and the best interests of Detroit and its residents.

The residents of this city deserve to have a wonderful, lively downtown area to enjoy, however, when considering tax abatements, it is our duty to ensure all Detroiters can benefit from the proposed development. In that vein, understanding that there is still some consternation on behalf of a segment of Detroit's population, I went to work to secure additional community benefits connected to the passage of this abatement. The developer, in response to my request, agreed to the following items, in writing, prior to further consideration of approving the Commercial Rehabilitation certificate:

1. Improving Bedrock's Affordable Housing commitments by moving from 20% to 30% of their entire housing portfolio being dedicated to affordable housing at 60% Area Median Income versus the current 80%, which increases access to affordable housing at lower rents.
2. The dedication of 20% of the street level retail space to be utilized by Detroit small businesses and community programming.
3. A commitment to the establishment of a \$1 million fund for the development and growth of Detroit small businesses.
4. Investing \$5 million to support the Neighborhood Improvement Fund (NIF) as a benefit to communities outside of Midtown and Downtown.
5. A comprehensive annual transparency report completed by CRIO to assess if commitments to jobs and investments are being honored and fulfilled.

In addition to being able to secure additional community benefits, in making my decision I relied heavily upon the advice of trusted staff members and the professional fiscal analysts in Council's Legislative Policy Division who prepared an unbiased and comprehensive report on the benefits of the project to the City of Detroit. According to the research and analysis, the \$60 million Commercial Rehabilitation abatement would result in a net benefit to the City of Detroit of \$71 million and an additional \$17 million to other taxing authorities such as DPSCD, the Detroit Zoo, WCCCD and the DIA. So, taking the emotion of who is asking for the abatement out of the equation and comparing it to other abatements approved by Council, this is the type of development any major City would welcome and that makes sense for Detroit.

In a perfect world we would not need to offer abatements to developers to attract projects to the City of Detroit.

Unfortunately, however, Detroit has one of highest tax rates in the nation amongst other major cities putting us at a competitive disadvantage. Tax abatements are a symptom of a much larger problem which is why I requested LPD provide a report on the ill-effects of Detroit's millage rate nearly two years ago and I am currently trying to pursue tax reform through the Michigan Legislature.

Finally, as with all major decisions I provide the information to the residents of District 5 and give them the opportunity to share their opinions prior to taking a vote. In that vein, I dedicated a weekly District 5 Virtual Office Hours Zoom meeting to the matter. During that meeting, I conducted a poll on Zoom and 56% of the residents voted to support the abatement and 44% voted against it, which was prior to my office securing additional community benefits. Additionally, as a descendant of a pioneer in the union movement I also seek and appreciate the opinion of our brother and sisters in Labor. Along those lines, I have personally heard from the Michigan Building and Construction Trade Council, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 58, the Laborer's International Union Local 1191, the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters and Millwrights and the Operating Engineers Local 324 all of which, except one, are headquartered in Detroit and are in full support of the project and represent tens of thousands of workers.

The Hudson's Project is not a perfect deal, but it is not every day that the City of Detroit is presented with a \$1 billion investment in our future. Given Bedrock's and the Gilbert Family Foundation's recent philanthropic commitments in the City, I believe they are committed to be true partners in the revitalization and sustainability of Detroit and Detroiters. With that said, I, along with my colleagues, will ensure the Hudson's Project complies with the CBO and Affordable Housing agreements we have negotiated.



# Keeping up with the President



Pictured: Councilmembers with Albion Mayor, Vicky Garcia Snyder.

## **CITY COUNCIL RETREAT**

In July, I hosted my first City Council Legislative Retreat... the first Council Retreat in 8 years! Our 3-day retreat was held in Albion, Michigan.

The goal of the retreat was to grow together as a Council so that we can be more effective for the residents of Detroit. We were able to bond and increase communication and transparency of processes between each council office.

Throughout the retreat, there were different breakout sessions for councilmembers, their chiefs of staff, and policy teams. There were also presentations by different researchers and city departments.

It was such a delight to host this retreat. I'm looking forward to the next one!

**DID YOU KNOW?** Council Retreats are open to the public! We welcome you to join us next time.

## **CONVERSATIONS WITH COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

I hosted my monthly "Conversations" meeting, and was joined by the Office of Contracting and Procurement. Our meeting was all about Detroit-based businesses! We shared information with attendees on how to get involved with contract opportunities in the City.

The City Council reviews many contracts per week and our goal is to have more Detroit-based businesses participate in the bidding process. Our meeting participants learned how to qualify for these contracts.

“Prioritizing local based businesses is a chance to circulate dollars in Detroit's economy. I am confident this event will directly result in Detroit families being sustained through gainful employment.”

- President Sheffield



# Keeping up with the President



**MARY SHEFFIELD**  
OFFICE OF CITY PRESIDENT

## REPARATIONS TASKFORCE APPLICATION IS NOW LIVE!

The Reparations Taskforce will consist of 13 members. Below are the requirements for applying:

PREFERRED DISCIPLINES/PROFESSIONS	ELIGIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS
HISTORIAN	Detroit Resident
COMMUNITY/GRASSROOTS	Minimum term of residency 6-10 years
HOUSING EXPERT	
SOCIAL JUSTICE ADVOCATE	*Qualifications for serving on the Task Force are a matter for discretionary decision making by City Council Members who will appoint the task force.
ECONOMIST	
CLERGY/RELIGION	
SENIOR CITIZEN	
URBAN PLANNER	
YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE	
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE ADVOCATE	
IMPACTED RESIDENT	

All are encouraged to apply!  
Applications will close on Monday, October 10th at 11:59 pm

**DETROIT CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD**



## **REPARATIONS TASKFORCE:** **APPLY NOW!**

As you know, Detroit voted "YES" last November to creating a Reparations Taskforce. The Taskforce will collaborate and create proposals to address the systematic and unjust enslavement, and discrimination of black people in Detroit.

The taskforce will have 13 members. In order to qualify, you must be a current Detroit resident that has lived in the City for 6 years or more. We encourage anyone to apply! We are accepting applications until 11:59pm on October 10th, 2022. We will review all applications that we receive.



To apply, visit:  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycktp3eu>

## **GLOBAL TIES DETROIT**

Last month, I was honored to meet with the Youth Empowerment and Civic Engagement Group of Global Ties Detroit. The group is traveling in the U.S. for two weeks as participants in the U.S. Department of State's **International Visitor Leadership Program**.

Councilmember Santiago-Romero and I sat down with young leaders from the United Kingdom and discussed the importance of advocating for disadvantaged youth and getting young people engaged in the political process.

“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future.”  
- Franklin D. Roosevelt

Global Ties Detroit is a nonprofit that hosts international exchange programs that promote global exchange and citizen diplomacy. Learn more at [globaltiesdetroit.org](http://globaltiesdetroit.org)





# Keeping up with the President



MORE DETAILS COMING SOON...

OCCUPY THE CORNER - DETROIT  
FINALE COUNTDOWN


27 DAYS



## CITY COUNCIL ON RECESS

Council began its annual recess on July 27th, and will reconvene at Formal Session on September 6th. We are still working, but we will not have any regular Council meetings. Recess is a time to regroup, evaluate policy priorities, and connect with the community.

### KEEP UP WITH ME IN AUGUST!

 @MarySheffield

 @MsMarySheffield

 MarySheffieldCityCouncilPresident

You can always get in touch with my office by phone at (313) 224-4505, or by email at [councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov](mailto:councilmembersheffield@detroitmi.gov).

**LET'S TALK:** Don't forget to tune into my Virtual Office Hours every Monday from 4pm-5pm on Zoom.

Meeting ID: 979 8806 9636  
Password: 594257

## AUGUST 27TH: OCCUPY THE CORNER

**JOIN US:** The Occupy the Corner - Detroit Finale is right around the corner! Join us on Saturday, August 27th with Big Sean to close out this summer's Occupy the Corner series!

There will be giveaways, live music, food, and important information given to residents.

Let's do it **BIG!**



# Community Updates

## HOW TO APPLY FOR NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION PROGRAM



Funded by the Neighborhood Improvement Fund | Founded by Council President Mary Sheffield

### WHAT IS THE NEIGHBORHOOD BEAUTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM?

The Neighborhood Beautification Program (NBP) grant provides funding to Detroit-based neighborhood associations, block clubs, faith-based organizations, and non-profit organizations that currently own property or purchase Land Bank vacant lots (up to 4) to carry out a project in their community. Grant awards range from \$500 to \$15,000.

NBP has three eligible project areas: Clean-up Activities, Community Gardens, and Public Space Activities



### HOW TO APPLY FOR NBP GRANT

#### STEP 1 APPLICANT ELIGIBILITY

- Must be a registered block club with the Department of Neighborhoods.
  - Block clubs and/or neighborhood associations can register with the Department of Neighborhoods at How to Get Started. Visit [bit.ly/3yjnBDR](https://bit.ly/3yjnBDR).
- To receive funds, all applicants (even if approved by the Department of Neighborhoods) must be a NonProfit 501(c)(3) organization to receive grant funds.
- If the applicant is a 501 (c)(3) organization, move to Step 2.
  - If you do not have a 501 (c)(3) designation, you may partner with one in your community.

#### STEP 2 SELECT YOUR SITE

**If applicant already owns the vacant lot(s), move to Step 3.** Please note: the property owned must be in the name of the LLC.

**If applicant does not own vacant lot(s), go to Detroit Land Bank Authority:**

- To find property in your area, visit <https://buildingdetroit.org>.
- To apply for properties, visit <https://bit.ly/3yjnJ6j>

#### STEP 3 SELECT YOUR PROJECT

##### Clean-Up Activities

- Vacant Lot Cleanup
- Graffiti Removal/Public Space
- Street Cleanup
- Litter Removal/CLB, City Lot/Public Spaces

##### Community Gardens

- Raised-Bed Flower Gardens, Living Fences
- Tree Planting
- Vegetables/Community Gardens

##### Public Space Activities

- Community Owned and Managed Park Improvements
- Neighborhood Beautification Projects/Public Space
- Park and Playground Seating
- Gathering Spots (pocket parks, seating, benches and picnic tables)
- Art Installation (murals and public art)

#### QUESTIONS?

If you have questions, please contact the Department of Neighborhoods at [arpacommunity@detroitmi.gov](mailto:arpacommunity@detroitmi.gov)



# Community Updates

## DWSD Lifeline Plan

Detroit's **FIRST-EVER** water affordability plan

Developed in partnership with community advocates and water affordability experts, the new Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) Lifeline Plan is an income-based water affordability plan. It offers qualifying customers a fixed monthly rate that will significantly reduce their monthly bill – and erase any past debt.

Your water bill  
past due debt  
wiped out  
for good!

Here's how it works.

Income-eligible enrolled Detroiters receive up to 4,500 gallons of water every month at a fixed rate. Average Detroit household (3 people) uses between 2,300 to 3,000 gallons per month.

**\$18**

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill **if you receive SNAP/FAP benefits.**

**\$43**

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill **if you are a low-income household and don't receive SNAP/FAP benefits.**

**\$56**

Your monthly water, sewer & drainage bill **if you are a moderate-income household and don't receive SNAP/FAP benefits.**

That's 1.8% of the average monthly household income for each tier – a standard set by community advocates and water affordability experts. If water usage exceeds 4,500 gallons per month, you'll be charged for that additional usage based on DWSD's new inclining block rate structure.

**Enrollment begins July 1, 2022**

**Apply at [waynemetrolife.org](https://waynemetrolife.org) or 313-386-9727**

The program is funded by regional, state and federal dollars.



**TAKE PART: Tap Into the Lifeline Plan**



# Community Updates

**JOIN US AND LEARN THE HOPE PROCESS**



**PROPERTY ASSESSMENT  
BOARD OF REVIEW**

**HOPE Application Assistance**

**Wednesday - July 27**  
**Wednesday - Aug. 24**  
**6:00pm - 8:00pm**

**On the Web:**  
**Zoom ID: 84857601540**

**By Phone:**  
**312-626-6799**

**Access Code: 84857601540#**

**Learn the HOPE application process and what you need to provide. Board of Review Members will be present to answer questions.**



# 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)**

**MIX 92.3**  
DETROIT




**iHeart**  
RADIO



# News You Can Use

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**VIRTUAL OFFICE HOURS  
DISTRICT 5 ONLY  
EVERY MONDAY  
FROM  
4-5PM EST**

**Join Us!**

Join Council President Sheffield and staff  
via Zoom and Facebook Live  
for our weekly 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**

# District 5 Business Spotlight!

## Bodega Market



**Bodega Market is a new market, café, and bar located in Brush Park! Bodega is beautifully designed and has fresh, locally sourced produce as well as the essential personal items that one might need.**

**While grocery shopping, you can stop at the café for a refreshing tea and sandwich wrap. I love this new addition to District 5, and I know that you will too! Follow them on Instagram at @bodega\_mkt.**



***BODEGA MARKET IS LOCATED AT  
2671 BRUSH ST, DETROIT, MICHIGAN 48201***

***Support  
LOCAL  
Businesses***



# 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**

*“I am no longer accepting the things  
I cannot change. I am changing the  
things I cannot accept.”*

*— Angela Y. Davis*

