



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conrad Mallett, Corporation Counsel, Detroit Law Department

THROUGH: Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero, Chair, Public Health & Safety Standing Committee

FROM: Council President Mary Sheffield

DATE: May 10, 2023

RE: **Requesting an Opinion on the Legality of Prohibiting Businesses from Locking Patrons Inside**

On Saturday, May 6th, 2023, three people were shot at a Mobil gas station on McNichols. Of the three shooting victims, Gregory Karlos Samuel Fortner-Kelly was killed. The shooting was the result of an argument unrelated to the three that were shot. After a dispute between the gunman and the gas station clerk, the clerk locked the gunman in the store to prevent him from stealing. The store patrons who were also locked in the store were shot soon after.

In this case, the shooting victims were held in the store against their wills and pleas. The gas station clerk took the law into their own hands which resulted in the preventable harm and loss of life that ensued. I am requesting for the Law Department to opine on the legality of an ordinance prohibiting businesses from locking patrons inside. Please provide policy alternatives in case this proposed ordinance is not feasible.

Should you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Ragland from my office at yvonne.ragland@detroitmi.gov.

cc: Honorable Colleagues
Hon. Janice Winfrey, Detroit City Clerk