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TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 5, 2024

RE: **Legislative Policy Division Community Outreach Ordinance-
District Community Budget Priorities Virtual Forum Report**

On October 20, 2020, the City of Detroit enacted the Community Outreach Ordinance to demonstrate the city's commitment to community outreach that promotes transparency and accountability and ensures community awareness on legislation, contracts, agreements, and resolutions related to various City-Wide Proposals and Neighborhood Class A-D Proposals as defined by the ordinance. A "City-Wide Proposal" includes all initiatives considered by City Council relating to the Mayor's annual recommended budget, bond proposals, and City-Wide Non-Motorized Urban Transportation Plan, and City-Wide Park Improvement Plan, and ballot initiatives that are led by either the administration or City Council.

Included in the City-wide Proposals process is the requirement of the ordinance that prior to submitting a City-wide Proposal to City Council for consideration, a representative of the administering department in collaboration with the Department of Neighborhoods, will hold one outreach meeting in each of the seven City Council districts. This report will detail the results of the community engagement from the City-wide Community Budget Priorities Forums held throughout the month of October 2023, in each City Council district¹.

Background

In accordance with the Community Outreach Ordinance passed in 2020, community meetings were held in each council district during the month of October 2023. Hosted by the Department of Neighborhood's District Managers, City Council members representing each district and at-large City Council members met with their constituents

¹ Per the Community Outreach Ordinance, the City Council will appoint a liaison from the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to monitor the community outreach process set forth in the ordinance to provide updates to City Council.

virtually via Zoom. The purpose of these meetings was to discuss and determine constituents’ priorities for the upcoming FY 2024 – 2025 city budget. The meetings were facilitated by the District Managers and staff; in attendance were City Council Members and their staff; LPD staff and OCFO Office of Budget staff. Attendance at these district’s zoom meetings averaged 50 participants, inclusive of city personnel.

The OCFO Office of Budget, Director and Deputy Director alternated as presenters for these district meetings. Discussions began with a brief overview of the budget process and timeline, followed by an outline of pertinent details of the current FY 2024 budget, and ended with questions from the community. The District Managers facilitated an interactive discussion on the community’s priorities. The interactive discussion involved polling questions and a deeper probe of the community’s highest concerns for their districts.

The OCFO Office of Budget is in process of preparing the Mayor’s Recommended Annual Budget for the city’s programs, services and activities in the upcoming fiscal year, July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025. The Recommended Annual Budget is scheduled to be presented with the Four-Year Financial Plan to the Detroit City Council on Thursday, March 7, 2024, for their review and adoption. The Mayor’s Recommended Annual Budget is an “estimated \$2 billion plus proposal, including an estimated \$1 billion of general fund activities.”

The Office of the Chief Financial Officer continued its approach to improving communications between residents and the city. To begin the process and in compliance with the City Charter, the Office of Budget held two Public Budget Meetings (Part I and II) on September 18th and September 25, 2023, respectively. The next step in this process was the virtual (with one hybrid) district community forums. The District Community meetings were immediately held after the two public budget meetings while the information was still fresh. The administration expressed a desire to receive public comments earlier in the budget process for consideration in budget development. Part I of the budget meetings included presentations from the General Services Department (GSD), Department of Public Works (DPW), and the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department (DWSD). Part II of the budget meetings included presentations from Fire, Health, Police and Public Lighting Department/Public Lighting Authority. Residents were able to ask questions and comment on many of the issues that were discussed in the subsequent District Community meetings. This resulted in less budget process inquiries during the District Community meetings to follow.

Below is a brief outline of some of the citizens’ issues raised during the Public Budget meetings.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>City Retiree issues- use of \$23M state grant</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health Dept- more Satellite Centers</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Improve City Communications with Residents</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Status of Tree Removal Program</i> ○ <i>Status of Sidewalk Program</i> ○ <i>Maintenance Schedule for Storm Drains Cleanup</i> ○ <i>Property Tax Exemptions for Seniors</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Health Emergency Programs for residents to address health related issues after disasters (flooding).</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Department metrics- additional information</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Budget information on website</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>GSD</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Tree cutting and removal.</i> ○ <i>Tree removal services- priority for seniors</i> ○ <i>GSD Animal and Wildlife issues</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Detroit Land Bank issues- grass cutting- partner with GSD on property maintenance</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Land Value Tax Issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Understanding of subject</i> ○ <i>Possible service cuts due to LVT</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DPW</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Installation of speed humps</i> ○ <i>Street cleaning outside of downtown</i> ○ <i>Pothole- sinkhole repairs service request issues</i> ○ <i>Sidewalk Repair Program – Accessibility issues- ADA compliance</i> ○ <i>Street improvements and safety issues- funding in budget</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Action on residents’ concerns raised in the Community Outreach process.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Timing to submit comments.</i> ○ <i>Outcome of resident input, City Council resolutions – where do you find in the budget.</i> ○ <i>Close loop on ARPA funds- track spending and commitments</i>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DWSD Issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Online payments for Lifeline program</i> ○ <i>Neighborhood water line replacement, Lead Pipe Removal Program</i> ○ <i>Rainwater accumulation on city streets</i> ○ <i>Fire hydrant maintenance- painting, replacements</i> ○ <i>Fire hydrant pressure monitoring</i> ○ <i>Construction cut service request issues</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Police Budget Issues</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Expand Neighborhood Police Officer Program</i> ○ <i>Narcotics Enforcement at precincts</i> ○ <i>Police forfeiture funds and DLBA properties</i> ○ <i>Outdated Police technology</i> ○ <i>% of Police Budget funded with property taxes- LVT issue</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fire- EMS Service- funding for alternative service providers</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>PLD-PLA- impact of DTE substation reductions and electrical outages.</i> • <i>How does Detroit's electrical infrastructure compare to other large cities. How to report street lighting outages?</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Fire Dept Smoke Detector Program</i> • <i>Fire Dept CPR Training for Community Organizations</i> 	

District Meetings

The October 2023 District Community meetings began with a ten-minute brief overview of the budget followed by three interactive questions. Digital technology was implemented for the interactive segment of the meeting. Participants were able to respond to the pre-selected questions using the Slido app., through the Zoom chat function and the Zoom raise hand function. The Slido app allowed participants to respond using brief phrases and the District Manager provided an opportunity for residents to verbally expand on their responses. The questions presented to participants were:

1. What would you like to see prioritized in the budget?
2. These are the priorities that we heard last year across the city. How would you rank these priorities?
3. How would you like to see (priority 1) be improved?
4. How would you like to see (priority 2) be improved?

Observations on the Process

As in past years, there was a short series of polling questions posed to the public participants to better understand the specific needs and desires of the community. This year the budget department included a slightly different variation of questions from those presented in 2022. In 2022, the department asked the following survey polling questions:

1. What would you like to see prioritized in the budget?
2. These are the priorities that we have heard from your district. How would you rank these priorities?
3. What would you like to see or experience in our city?

This year's survey questions differed slightly from last year's questions identified above. However, the first polling question remained the same. As part of polling question 2, the presenter lists the previous year's budget priorities for the district. The format of the Slido poll results were not as clear as they could be. It was difficult to determine which item received the greater number of responses, especially if the polling numbers were close.

Polling question 2 then asks citizens to identify and rank from the previous year's list, those issues and/or initiatives which they feel require new and/or additional investment in this upcoming budget. It then takes the top two responses

to question #1 and polling question #2 and asks how would the residents like to improve upon these services (questions #3 and #4). For example, if the top two priorities were transportation and affordable housing, the citizens offered their insight to how the city could better fund these initiatives or improve the services.

Though we recognize the effort to solicit better and more valuable commentary, it appeared at times that the public lacked the ability to offer viable suggestions to further these initiatives past providing more funding. Both the mental health and affordable housing crisis are national problems. Many of our residents are not adequately versed in the workings of government to offer viable recommendations on issues such as affordable housing, and mental health. Comments from the public generally speak to the need for more affordable housing and greater services for the mentally challenged. An explanation of what the city is doing to address the need for increased mental health services and the creation of more affordable housing opportunities could go a long way.

A polling question should be introduced which would solicit an answer which is more closely related to the immediate needs of individuals in the district, such as, ... “please identify a priority area that you feel most specifically effects yourself or those within your district?”

Further, the Administration should have a portion of the presentation dedicated to steps taken to implement initiatives identified in the previous year’s community priority outreach.

Lastly, it was refreshing to see that the Detroit Land Bank issues were not as prominent in this year’s meetings as in the past. However, the Detroit Land Bank concerns and blight problems, could be one in the same.

Land Value Tax Discussion

The Mayor’s Office, Department of Neighborhoods, and the Office of CFO also used this opportunity to communicate with residents in each district about the Land Value Tax proposal currently being considered by the MI legislature. A presentation by Alvin Hohrn, Deputy CFO/Assessor, on the Land Value Tax (LVT) proposed by the Mayor was held at the end of the District meetings. Mr. Hohrn gave a detailed explanation of the LVT.

Below are some comments shared by citizens from the District 3 meeting:

- How much money is collected from property taxes?
- One citizen asked if the city was disincentivizing speculation, as the largest land speculator was the Detroit Land Bank.
- Another citizen asked about side lots and NEZ parcels.
- There also was a question about the inability of side lot owners to construct a house or a garage on the side lots.
- After several citizens mentioned that they were told by individuals questioning the LVT process to “come to a meeting”, a citizen stated that he was aware that when this was discussed in Lansing, comments were made about this being unconstitutional. Also, literature was incorrect, it was tax abuse, and that the drainage fee, or the rain tax, was not voted on by citizens.
- Another citizen said this will benefit homeowners but will scare businesses away.
- There was a comment about individuals from out-of-state buying lots and sitting on them. This contributes to blight, so maybe the city could pass a law that buyers must do something with the properties in 10 years or so.

District Budget Priorities Overview

Again, concerns relating to housing: affordable housing, home repair grants, and home ownership opportunities ranked high in participants priorities. Numerous comments focused on the need for assistance to secure and maintain home ownership for residents of the city of Detroit. Certain groups were specifically identified for increased assistance: disabled citizens, and seniors. Residents voiced their thoughts on the definition of affordable housing; that it is not the same as low-income housing, the Area Median Income (AMI) and other eligibility issues. Also, raised was the desire to expand the income limits on the home repair program eligibility.

Communication concerns continue to be an issue between the city and residents. A general lack of knowledge in the existence of various city programs and services continues to frustrate residents. Residents voiced numerous concerns about the lack of responsiveness by city departments to their complaints. Residents shared examples of poor city services and their inability to reach city departments for resolution on issues such as fallen trees, trash removals, abandoned cars, etc. Accountability is an important community concern. Residents want homeowners and businesses to be held accountable for maintaining their properties. They want the city to carry out its responsibility to enforce city ordinances regarding these matters. As in previous years, issues with the Detroit Land Bank properties were discussed, although this issue was not as prominent as before.

Improving the city’s Community Outreach continues to be a concern, as residents continue to voice a disconnect between their priorities and actual city expenditures. Residents expressed a desire to be included in the city’s decision-making process on projects within their districts, on the budget for programs and services and on how surplus funds are spent.

As previously stated, citizens who participated in the process were without a doubt engaged and able to effectively voice their requests and concerns. However, discussion still lacked the desired and necessary input from a large segment of our community. This is illustrated by the low estimated average number of non-city employed participants, 20- 30 residents, as compared to the population of each district, approximately 90,000. We recognize that community outreach, just what it entails, and how it is conducted is actively being redefined as we emerged from the pandemic. But for this process to achieve its full potential, expanding the outreach is essential. Further inclusion of faith-based organizations, fraternities, sororities, and professional organizations could assist in gaining more ideas, suggestions, and experiences from a broader cross section of our community.



This year’s top priorities- all districts

Housing programs: expanding home repair programs to include more than roofing, home modifications for safety and accessibility, affordable housing, and other housing support.

Funding for specific groups: increase senior support, more services for the disabled, seniors, and youth.

Effective City Services: increase code enforcement, tree trimming, other city services.

Illegal Dumping: increase support to combat illegal dumping, trash pick-up, blight removal, clean city.

Community Outreach: inform and engage the community, include issues with the budget/ city-wide communications, inclusion in the decision-making process.

Recreation: more funding for youth

recreation activities and green spaces. **Infrastructure:** address DWSD concerns, streets/and roads improvements. Street Lighting: increase street lighting in neighborhoods. **Mental Health:** more funding to address mental health needs.

Results by District

District 1- Thursday, October 26, 2023

Hosted by: Karla Williamson, District Manager; City Council Member: James Tate, President-Pro Tem
 OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Steven Watson, Budget Director

Home Repair was the primary concern of District 1. Eligibility to receive funding for home repairs, the need to fix or demolish vacant homes and Brightmore specific issues were discussed. As discussed in the previous year, alternative home repair programs for those over the income threshold – middle class taxpayers were raised. Residents

voiced concerns on the lack of communication on the availability of these home repair programs- residents lack knowledge of the existence of programs- the need for a better application process. In a deeper probe of this issue, residents raised the following concerns: programs for seniors; grants for landlords, grants for various income levels, distribute funding based on seniority in home (resident 10 years or greater); ensure the use of licensed contractors; what are the income restrictions for grants, more assistance for home repairs, ensure timely completion of projects and the timely distribution of grant funds. On the issue of improving communications with residents, best methods were discussed to reach residents through block clubs, mass mailings, social media, etc.

Other concerns expressed were illegal dumping; code enforcement; sidewalk repair program and tree trimming; providing a list of approved contractors, more investment in parks, general cleanliness- trash pick-up, litter, other beautification efforts; historic districts, invest in workforce training, senior services, public safety, bus shelters, more vacant lots cuts and Crowell Recreation Center.

In a deeper discussion on illegal dumping, residents recommended more cameras in areas with repeat dumping issues; higher fines for violators, more frequent pick-up of bulk; improve coordination with city departments on this issue; impound vehicles and post photos of violators and add points to violators drivers' license.

District 1 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	October-2023 Issues-Concerns	Rank	October-2022 Issues-Concerns
1	Housing: home repair programs, accessible housing, and home modification programs	1	Housing: Affordable housing, home repair programs, accessible housing, and home modification programs
2	Illegal dumping	2	Safe Neighborhoods

District 2- Tuesday, October 10, 2023:

Hosted by: Kim Tandy, District Manager; City Council Member: Angela Whitfield- Calloway
 OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Steve Watson, Budget Director

Public comments included a number of priorities for the district: mental health services, Streets for people², housing, roofs for seniors, transportation/DDOT, senior services, neighborhood safety, ordinance enforcement, home affordability, and traffic control: increase enforcement efforts for speeding, running red lights, stopping vehicle donuts³ and streetlights. Other issues raised were ensuring that legacy (long-term) Detroiters benefit from the investments made through the city budget process and from city funds. City beautification issues of alley cleanups, litter, and illegal dumping were discussed. Addressing environmental concerns such as volatile organic compounds (VOC)⁴, soil amendments, green initiatives and establishing a neighborhood trust to benefit citizens dealing with environmental issues was recommended by one resident. DWSD infrastructure issues, tree trimming and sidewalk repairs were also discussed. One participant raised a question on how does this information- feedback collected at the district meetings get added to the budget and the community gets the services requested.

In an expanded discussion on the top two concerns that residents of District 2 raised: Affordable Housing and Home Repairs, residents made the following suggestions on how to improve these issues. For Affordable Housing, residents recommended building more tiny homes, more single homes and not “project-type” homes; build smaller homes (850 sq.ft.); build more mid-sized multi-family homes, more options for homes/condos/apartments; repair funds for older homes, more green space, more mixed-use development, stop land speculation, more city supported loans in areas where banks are not lending and establish neighborhood trusts to provide benefits to those below the poverty level. Other recommendations included compensation for property overassessments; passing the Property Tax Reform Ordinance, ensure everyone who is eligible for the Home Ownership Exemption Process receive this benefit.

² DPWs’ “Streets for People” plan is to make it easier and safer for all Detroiters to be mobile throughout the city. This plan was created with the input of thousands of Detroiters. More information on the program can be found on the City of Detroit website, DPW link, and Streets for People sub link.

³ “Vehicle donuts” are circles drivers make on a street where illegal streetcar racing is taking place.

⁴ Volatile organic compounds include toxic air pollutants that are emitted from cars, trucks and buses, which are linked to different types of cancer.

Residents want more direct and immediate support for those who are housing-insecure or homeless, improved bus services, affordable housing for seniors, low- and middle-income residents and for housing for purchase or rent.

Suggestions for improvements to the home repair process were similar to those for affordable housing in benefits for seniors, low-income and middle-income homeowners; improve the application process (faster for emergency repairs), no cost or low interest home improvement loans; prepare list of reputable home repair contractors; and creating jobs and training programs for home repairs. Specific recommendations included increase home repair income eligibility requirements to \$130K and less; loan forgiveness after so many years, increase home weatherization and energy efficiency programs and create a city department dedicated to performing home repairs.

District 2 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	October-2023 Issues-Concerns	Rank	October-2022 Issues-Concerns
1	Housing: Affordable Housing	1	Safe Neighborhoods
2	Housing: Home Repairs	2	Effective City Services

District 3- Tuesday, October 24, 2023:

Hosted by: Kayana Sessions, District Manager; City Council Member: Scott Benson
 OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Janani Yates, Deputy Budget Director

Priorities for District 3 include affordable housing, grants for home repairs, traffic control (speeding), public safety, beautification of the district, safety in the neighborhood, new single-family housing & cleanliness, more programs that help seniors, such as home repairs, help for the disabled. In comparing last year’s priorities, illegal dumping and litter clean up were the top 2 concerns.

Ways to improve illegal dumping included pushing up the clean up as soon as possible and having a set time to do so. Hopefully, this would deter other dumping on the same site. Ways to improve litter clean up include developing preventative measures, instituting severe penalties, putting more trash containers in the neighborhood, and hiring more clean-up personnel.

There was a question about how much money was in the budget for schools and the library. Ms. Yates explained that this city budget does not include money for the schools or the library. They have their own budgets outside of the city’s budget. The library budget is available on the website www.detroitmi.gov/budget

Another citizen asked about more money for seniors and handicapped residents. She believed several years ago, there was \$2 million allocated for seniors and handicapped residents. Another citizen asked about drainage fees and was informed that he could look into the Detroit Water & Sewerage Department at www.detroitmi.gov/budget

District 3 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	October-2023 Issues-Concerns	Rank	October-2022 Issues-Concerns
1	Illegal Dumping	1	Safe Neighborhoods
2	Litter Cleanup	2	Jobs/Workforce

District 4- Tuesday, October 24, 2023:

Hosted by: Eboni Deberry, Deputy District Manager; City Council Member: Latisha Johnson
 OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Steve Watson, Budget Director

Priorities for District 4 covered a variety of issues from across the board. This includes blight remediation, returning citizens programs information, increasing the levels of city services, initiatives regarding taxation, renovation of the

Monteith Library, workforce development, park improvements, housing, right-of way walkways, infrastructure improvements, greenways, and code enforcement. There were 44 persons in attendance. Residents expressed the need to make streets safer for travel utilizing methods other than speed humps in order to prevent traffic accidents and fatalities, as well as the need for more transparency and general information sharing for citizens who are unable to access information online.

Better transportation options and the need to halt illegal dumping remained high priorities. In addition, some residents expressed the need to expand technology hubs on the eastside of the city. From the list of priorities in last year’s outreach, the top three priorities included litter clean up, improved streetlights, and illegal dumping. Of those three priorities this year only the prevention of illegal dumping remains a top priority. Transportation, home repair, and expanded senior services, have taken the place of litter clean up, and streetlights.

When asked to specify the areas from last year citizens would like to see receive new investment in the upcoming budget, the top choices were the areas of transportation and home repair. Residents requested an overall better transit system, new bus shelters and benches, a transit system that services the neighborhoods offering trips to and from the grocery store or medical appointments, better driver pay and transportation to and from the suburbs. Although affordable housing was not as high on the list as it has been in the past, access to home repair remained a high priority. Residents voiced the need for more home repair grants, not only for seniors and low income, but for middle-income families. In addition, there were requests for wider dissemination of information relative to home repair grants, as well as, calls for the institution of carpentry training programs through DPS, which could help with the effort to repair homes in the district. It was surprising that the issue of flooding was not on the forefront of the topics in D4 this year. This perhaps could be attributed to the efforts made by the city to assist in mitigating the damage caused by flooding.

District 4 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	October-2023 Issues-Concerns	Rank	October-2022 Issues-Concerns
1	Transportation	1	Infrastructure – Flooding Issues
2	Home Repair	2	Affordable Housing

District 5- Wednesday, October 18, 2023:

Hosted by: Josh Roberson, District Manager; City Council Member: Mary Sheffield, President
 OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Steve Watson, Budget Director

The focus this October 2023 shifted from the infrastructure concerns raised in the previous year due to the flooding of 2021 to illegal dumping and cleanliness issues, although one resident voiced continued hardship due to excessive flooding during rain events. Priorities expressed were public transportation, recreation, alley clean-up, blight removal, youth programming, trash clean-up, public spaces, and community development. In ranking the highest priorities, participants indicated the following concerns: illegal dumping, senior support services, litter clean-up, home repairs, alley clean-up, code enforcement, streetlights, transportation, and affordable housing.

Again, communication concerns were raised. With regards to illegal dumping issues, one resident noted that residents need to know the Do’s and Don’ts of Blight. What is defined as blight? More education is needed on illegal dumping and the home renovation process that sometimes results in homeowners receiving blight tickets for renovation debris. Residents feel ill-informed on a number of issues: development projects in the district, recreation center openings, street repairs, and community policing issues. Other issues raised were sustainable community development and urban farming, funds to improve alley- clean-up staffing and support and resources for community block clubs.

Ranking the priorities noted in the previous year, citizens responded as follows: illegal dumping, senior support, litter cleanup, home repair, alley cleanup, code enforcement, streetlights, transportation and affordable housing.

In an expanded discussion on the two highest priorities: illegal dumping and senior support services, residents made the following suggestions: add weekly bulk pick-up, more education about bulk special pickups (fee is nominal); add cameras on light poles to detect illegal dumping, increase prosecution of violators. Recommendations for improvement in senior support services include the home repair process- more grants, home services for seniors, such

as trash takeout, snow removal and grass cutting; more activities- services for seniors, better public transportation, increase access to technology resources and scam prevention. One suggestion was to develop youth programs to assist seniors in their homes (with various tasks like taking out the trash); could the city use ARPA funds to accomplish this?

District 5 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	October-2023 Issues-Concerns	Rank	October-2022 Issues-Concerns
1	Illegal dumping	1	Home Repair
2	Senior support	2	Infrastructure Improvements

District 6- Thursday, October 19, 2023:

Hosted by: Eva Torres, District Manager; City Council Member: Gabriela Santiago-Romero
 OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Janani Yates, Deputy Budget Director

Home repair and street lighting were the primary concerns for district 6 in comparing year over year results. Several residents expressed concerns about affordable housing, home repair programs, better code enforcement, blight and illegal dumping, unrestricted funds for moderate- and middle-income persons. Grants should be issued for home repair, rather than loans that need to pay back.

Comments on street lights were that there should be three (3) street lights on residential blocks and they need to be brighter, and street lights that face businesses along business borders. Brighter LED lights on streets and in alleys, as some people still park in garages. There was a question as to why there were two (2) city agencies for lighting – the Public Lighting Authority and the Public Lighting Department.

The Detroit Land Bank was mentioned as problems arise in dealing with the agency to get resolution on properties that the Land Bank owns.

The primary issues in District 6 were home repairs, the need for more police presence, infrastructure, and blight/illegal dumping. Making home repair grants available to seniors and middle-income families by raising eligibility thresholds was a priority, in addition to improved street lighting. Residents requested that there be three streetlights per residential block, more accountability from PLA, and street lighting in business corridors be directed toward the businesses. Voices from the community requested unrestricted funds for repairs to roofs, windows, and porches based upon a grant model versus a loan model. In addition, some expressed concerns relative to the use of funds for home repair and asked for greater transparency regarding the contractors who receive funding. Blight continues to be an issue. However, affordable housing, which was one of the high-ranking priorities last year, was not listed in the top 4 priorities for the district this year. But the lack of affordable housing continues to be a problem plaguing Detroit and communities across America.

District 6 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	October-2023 Issues-Concerns	Rank	October-2022 Issues-Concerns
1	Home Repair	1	Home Repair
2	Street Lighting	2	Affordable Housing

District 7- Wednesday, October 25, 2023:

Hosted by: Alexia Davis, Deputy District Manager; City Council Member: Fred Durhal, III
 OCFO- Office of Budget Presenter: Janani Yates, Deputy Budget Director

District 7 residents continue to prioritize services for the most vulnerable population- senior citizens, disabled and youth. Providing housing support – home repairs and affordable housing for seniors and the disabled ranked high. Senior support services, disabled services, and home repairs are related concerns as residents want more funding directed to making homes accessible and safe by renovating homes with walk in showers, stairs, ramps, porch handrails and other home weatherization programs. For this same group, residents want to see more funding to provide mobility services, such as shuttles, golf carts, scooters, etc. to enhance quality of life. Services for the blind and disabled requested included job assistance, housing needs, etc. One resident noted that the city should ask the seniors what services they need.

Other concerns raised were improving transit, illegal dumping, streetlights, alley clean-up and code enforcement. Increasing the cleanliness of the district was raised as residents want more vacant lot and alley clean-up and more action on illegal dumping. Recreation and more youth activities were discussed with residents advocating for city investment in youths with more competitions and scholarships.

Of the top two issues raised- home repairs and senior support, residents made the following suggestions and recommendations: home repairs should focus not just on roofs but the whole house to bring it up to city code; upgrading electrical, heating and cooling systems, plumbing, in addition to more funds for roofs and masonry repairs. Residents want the city to increase funding of training and apprenticeship programs in skill trades, carpentry and millwright, etc. to provide opportunities to Detroit students to participate in these home repair programs.

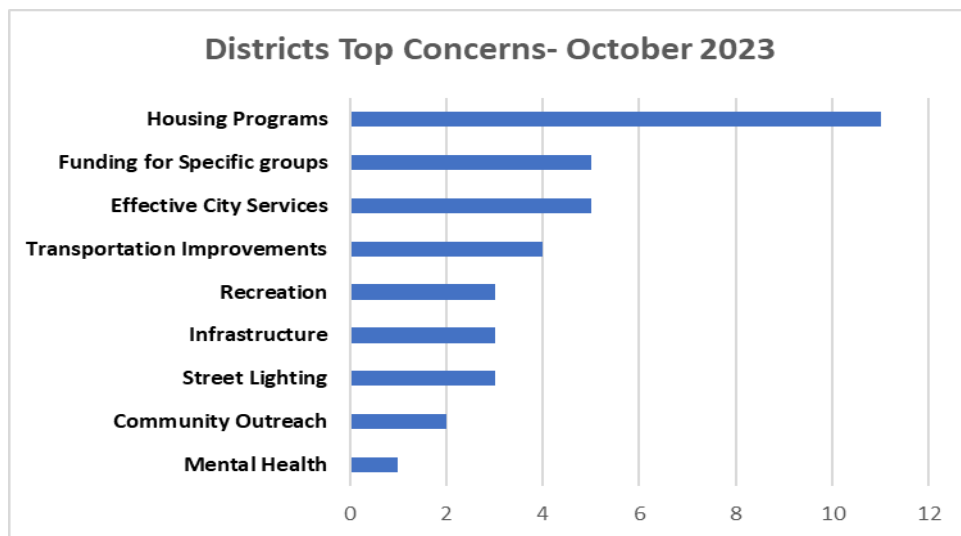
District 7 Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	October-2023 Issues-Concerns	Rank	October-2022 Issues-Concerns
1	Home Repairs	1	Funding for Residents with Disabilities
2	Senior support	2	Housing Support for Seniors

CONCLUSION

Results All Districts

This chart displays the results compiled from the virtual Community District meetings held this October 2023. Concerns/ issues/ priorities were segmented and ranked into 10 categories. This chart shows the outcome of rankings for each category (ranked from lowest to highest priority).

In reviewing year over year results, we observed overall concerns remain the same in the district’s top priority. Community focus continue with housing needs- affordable housing, home repair programs and housing needs for specific groups. Increase support for seniors, the disabled and the city’s youth ranked high as well as maintaining a clean city by combating illegal dumping and cleaning alleys and vacant lots.



ALL DISTRICTS Year over Year Comparisons			
Rank	October -2023 Issues-Concerns	Rank	October -2022 Issues-Concerns
1	Housing Programs	1	Housing Programs
2	Senior Support/ Funding for Specific Groups: Disabled, Seniors	2	Safe Neighborhoods
3	Effective City Services- illegal dumping/ litter-trash-alley/ vacant lot cleanup, code enforcement	3	Effective City Services
4	Transportation	4	Community Outreach
5	Recreation	5	Funding for Specific Groups: Disabled, Seniors
			Parks and Recreation
			Infrastructure Improvements

Recommendation

Residents continue to express concerns about how their feedback and priorities are presented in the city’s budget. LPD again recommend creating documents for the public that illustrate community feedback to related budget decisions.

It would be beneficial to connect programmatic impact or performance output with budgetary decisions. The Legislative Policy Division issued a report (May 1, 2020) on a review of Outcome Budgeting. The LPD review identified that “Outcome Budgeting appears to have some merit, it can make government programs more result oriented, instead of outlay oriented. It can better measure outcomes of government program and services to determine whether the money spent meet certain goals and objectives; it can provide a performance measurement tool that helps in a) better service delivery, b) decision-making, c) improving program effectiveness, d) make budgets more cost-effective, e) add accountability and f) aid better management.” The Administration began with a pilot project focused on outcome budgeting for three departments: General Service Department (GSD), the Department of Innovation and Technology (DoIt), and the Detroit Fire Department (Fire) and later implemented Outcome Budgeting for the entire city. An update on this pilot project and ongoing efforts to demonstrate how citizen input informs budget recommendations would be beneficial for City Council’s consideration relative to aligning priorities with budgetary allocations, as well as provide valuable feedback to those who have offered their recommendations. Community feedback also expressed a desire to see this information presented on a district level. Budget officials indicated that they would work on providing this information.

Additional process improvement suggestions were made on page 4 of this document to assist with obtaining more directed input from the community.

In accordance with the Community Outreach Ordinance, the administration will provide City Council a report detailing the itemized concerns raised by the impacted neighborhoods during the community outreach process and a proposed method to address each of those concerns. LPD understands this report will accompany the Mayor’s proposed Fiscal Year 2024- 2025 Budget and FY 2026 – 2029 Four Year Financial Plan scheduled to be presented to City Council on Thursday, March 7, 2024.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

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