



City of Detroit
Detroit City Council
Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway
District 2

Internal Operating Standing Committee

To: Janice M. Winfrey, City Clerk Suite 200

From: Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway, *Angela Whitfield Calloway*
Member

CC: Council Member, Latisha Johnson, Chairperson
Council Member Mary Waters, Vice Chairperson
Council President Mary Sheffield, Ex-Officio
Deputy City Clerk, Andre Gilbert
Louise Jones
Deonte Agee

Date: January 18, 2022

Re: Internal Operating Standing Committee

Comments: Statement regarding 1/18/2022 Walk-On Resolution about Corporation
Counsel. Referred to 1/19/2022 IOS.

**DETROIT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD CALLOWAY:
STATEMENT ON THE NOMINATION OF
CONRAD MALLET JR TO THE OFFICE OF DETROIT CORPORATION
COUNSEL**

In December 2021, Mayor Mike Duggan announced that he would nominate Deputy Mayor Conrad Mallett Jr. for the position of Detroit Corporation Counsel. Clearly, Conrad Mallett Jr. is a capable public servant with a long and exceptional professional career.

Unfortunately, Conrad Mallett Jr. is also a longtime ally of Mayor Duggan and this extremely close relationship makes his nomination problematic.

The Detroit City Charter outlines the duties of the Detroit Corporation Counsel as a strong and independent legal counsel that is the attorney for the Mayor, the City Clerk, the City Council and the individual members of City Council. In the normal course of events, there

will often be different opinions between these elected officials. The Detroit Corporation Counsel must be able to give clear and independent legal decisions concerning these inevitable differences. Based on the proximity and degree of the longtime relationship of Conrad Mallett Jr. and Mayor Duggan, it is clear there is a significant potential for a material limitation of the independence of this attorney as he will need to give legal representation to multiple clients. Under the circumstances, the public will always wonder whether Conrad Mallett Jr. gave clear and independent legal counsel or whether he simply gave Mayor Duggan the legal opinion that was requested by the executive branch of municipal government to the detriment of Detroit City Council or an individual City Council member.

After a review of the Detroit City Charter and the Rules of Professional Conduct, and aware of the public perception that may arise, I cannot vote in favor of Mayor Duggan's nomination of Deputy Mayor Conrad Mallett Jr. as Detroit Corporation Counsel. I will vote no at the appropriate time.