



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

"Walk-On"
refer to [unclear]
APB

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conrad Mallet, Corporation Counsel, Law Department
FROM: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
THRU: Public Health and Safety Standing Committee
DATE: May 21, 2024
RE: Amendments to Chapter 31 of the Detroit City Code – Misdemeanor Violations

Please provide answers to the following questions regarding amendments to Chapter 31 of the 2019 Detroit City Code:

1. Where did the request for this ordinance originate?
2. Why is it necessary to make these changes at this time?
3. Does the Law Department have the level of staff and expertise to implement these changes?
4. What is required for the implementation of these amendments?
5. Is there a potential for a conflict of interest by giving the authority to bring charges forward to an attorney or attorneys appointed by the Mayor, directly or indirectly, versus being elected by the people? Also, does it further complicate matters if police officers or other employees are charged under this ordinance as it relates to the Law Department having some responsibilities to represent employees according to their collective bargaining agreements?
6. Is the City potentially exposing itself to more litigation due to prosecutorial misconduct and/or wrongful convictions by bringing these duties in-house?
7. Are there other municipalities, of similar size and racial make-up, with similar provisions and authority given in their City Code?
8. Currently, these charging decisions are made by the County Prosecutor Kim Worthy. Where does she stand on the issue, and has she been consulted about effectuating such a change?

5-21-24 - Rec. at table