



City of Detroit

COUNCILMAN SCOTT R. BENSON

---

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Conrad Mallett, Chief, Corporation Counsel  
David Bell, Director, Buildings, Safety Engineering and  
Environmental Department (BSEED)

**FROM:** Hon. Scott Benson, City Council District 3

**CC:** Hon. Gabriela Santiago Romero, Chair, Public Health, and Safety  
Standing Committee  
Hon. Janice Winfrey, City Clerk  
Malik Washington, Mayor's Liaison

**VIA:** Hon. Council President Mary Sheffield

**DATE:** 29 April 2024

**RE:** ENFORCEMENT AND LEGAL ACTION FOR NFL DRAFT  
SUPER SIGNS

As a direct result of the NFL Draft downtown Detroit has seen an explosion in the erection of super advertising signs. Please identify the number of signs erected for the NFL Draft, and the number of signs that went through the super sign permit process and are legally allowed to exist. **If signs did not go through the process, to legally be erected, please identify the enforcement strategy to remove the signs, and the fine amounts for these scofflaws. In addition, please identify the process to recoup the required "Art Fund" contribution that all super advertising signs are required to pay.** If a landlord does not comply with the sign ordinance and allows for the erection of an illegal sign, I believe at least two crimes have occurred.

1. The illegal erection of a super-sized advertising sign.
2. The non-payment of the "Art Fund" contribution to offset the sign's blighting influence, which then removes potential work from the Detroit art community and the erection of public art within our neighborhoods.

Your immediate attention and actions are crucial. Our community looks for us to resolve in these matters, and we must respond with an unwavering commitment to improve their quality of life and protect their living environment.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact my office at 313-224-1198.

SRB