



MEMORANDUM

TO: Trisha Stein, Group Executive
Denise Fair Razzo, Director, Detroit Health Department
Jay B. Rising, Chief Financial Officer
Marcell Todd, Director, City Planning Commission
Conrad Mallett, Corporation Counsel
Antoine Bryant, Director, Planning and Development Department
David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division

FROM: Hon. Scott Benson, City Council District 3

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

VIA: Hon. Council President Mary Sheffield

DATE: 2 July 2024

RE: REQUESTS RELATED TO SOLAR FARMS IN DETROIT

As we advance our renewable energy initiatives, particularly the installation of solar farms, it is crucial to ensure these projects benefit our environment and community's health. I am requesting the following actions from your respective departments:

- 1. Draft Language for Solar Overlay Districts (CPC):** Prepare draft language for establishing solar overlay districts to be submitted to the City Planning Commission for their recommendation to City Council. This should be done on a parallel, but separate, and independent path to the solar farm project. I plan for this language to be ready for future solar farms. The draft should include:
Design Guidelines: Provide guidelines for design, screening and placement.
- 2. Air Quality and Health Outcomes Study (DHD):** Conduct comprehensive studies on air quality and health outcomes associated with solar farm installation. The studies should include:
 - a. Air Quality Assessment:** Evaluate changes in air quality around solar farms and the City of Detroit. No sooner than one year after a solar farm begins to generate energy.
 - b. Health Outcomes Analysis:** Assess the health impacts on residents within 1,000 feet of solar farms. No sooner than one year after a solar farm begins to generate energy.
 - c. Comparative Analysis:** Compare areas with and without solar farms.
 - d. Recommendations:** Provide strategies to maximize health benefits and mitigate any adverse effects.
 - e. Quantify the Benefits (DHD and Finance):** Collaborate to quantify the value of improved air quality and health.
 - f. Cost-Benefit Analysis:** Include a cost-benefit analysis of the annual costs of solar farms to Detroit's general fund vs improved air quality and health benefits.
- 3. Letter of Agreement (Law Department):** Draft a letter of agreement between the Planning and Development Department (PDD) and the City Planning Commission (CPC) to formalize collaboration during the solar farm design process.
- 4. Contract Termination Clauses (Law Department):** Walk through the contract termination clause with Councilmember Benson's office by close of business (COB) July 8, 2024.

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