



CITY OF DETROIT

MARY WATERS

COUNCIL MEMBER AT-LARGE

MEMORANDUM

To: David Whitaker, Legislative Policy Division

Through: Mary Sheffield, City Council President

From: Council Member At-Large Mary Waters submitting memorandum relative to

Date: 10/17/2024

RE: Resolution Request – Modifications to DLBA MOU on BuyBack Program

SUMMARY:

Please begin the process, in consultation with our office, to draft a resolution that would require the Detroit Land Bank Authority's BuyBack program to:

1. **Establish a Firm Application Processing Time:** The DBLA should process applications from interested individuals within 90 days. Additionally, citizens should be given 90 days to submit the necessary documentation before their applications are processed.
2. **Legally Establish First Right of Refusal:** Citizens who can demonstrate investment in their homes should be granted the first right of refusal to purchase the property they currently occupy, thereby avoiding the auction process.
3. **Provide Legally-Binding Letter of Intent:** Those approved for the Buy Back Program should receive a formal Letter of Intent from the Detroit Land Bank. This letter would provide assurance that their investment in the home will be recognized and counted.
4. **Provide Effective Notification:** Codify the Detroit Land Bank Authority's responsibility to notify all individuals currently residing in Land Bank homes. It is essential that these

occupants are informed about the grievance process available when their applications for property are denied. This grievance process should involve the Housing Services Department (HRD) and provide clear guidelines for residents to follow.

5. **Establish Firm Policies Around Complaints:** Community complaints concerning occupied homes must clearly outline the legal disputes involved and residents should not lose eligibility for BuyBack unless they have been convicted of committing violent crimes against neighbors and property.

With best regards,
Mary Waters
Councilmember At-Large
Detroit City Council

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT:

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