



City of Detroit

COUNCILMAN SCOTT R. BENSON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Chuck Simms, Detroit Fire Commissioner
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: 8 January 2025

RE: **REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON LITHIUM BATTERY
FIRE PREPAREDNESS AND MITIGATION**

I am seeking information regarding the Detroit Fire Department's preparedness and efforts in addressing the risks associated with lithium battery fires. As the use of lithium batteries becomes increasingly prevalent, it is crucial that we are proactive in mitigating the associated hazards. Specifically, I request the following:

1. **Preparedness:**
 - What specific measures and training is the Fire Department implementing to address lithium battery fires?
2. **Identification of Hotspots:**
 - Have any locations in Detroit been identified as hotspots where lithium batteries are stored, manufactured, or disposed of?
 - What are the potential risks associated with these locations?
3. **Mitigation Efforts:**
 - How is the Fire Department working with identified hotspots to mitigate potential dangers?
 - Are there any partnerships or safety protocols in place with businesses or facilities handling large quantities of lithium batteries?
4. **Public Awareness:**
 - What steps are being taken to educate the public about safe storage and handling of lithium batteries to reduce risks?

Understanding the efforts already in place and identifying areas for potential improvement are critical to ensuring the safety of our residents and first responders. I appreciate your prompt response and any additional insights you can provide on this matter.

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

SRB