



CITY OF DETROIT

MARY SHEFFIELD

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

To: Todd Bettison, Interim Chief, Detroit Police Department

Through: Councilmember Gabriela Santiago-Romero, Chair, Public Health and Safety Standing Committee

From: Council President Mary Sheffield submitting memorandum relative to

Date: 2/6/2025

RE: Request for Response to Constituent Complaint

SUMMARY:

My office recently received a complaint from a resident regarding alleged misconduct by the police department. Please review the complaint copied below and provide a formal response to the allegations.

TO: Mike Duggan, Mayor City of Detroit
Todd A. Bettison, Interim Police Chief

RE: Request for Urgent Follow-up Action on Assault Case and Alleged Detroit Police
Department Misconduct – Tenay Hankins

Dear Mayor Duggan and Interim Chief Bettison:

We are writing on behalf of Tenay Hankins, to request that you ensure the independent prosecution of the individual who assaulted her in July 2024, including any post-assault violations and potential lawbreaking involving Detroit Police Department officers. Transparency and accountability are essential to uphold public trust.

Ms. Hankins has also reported that Assistant Deputy Chief Hope, the most senior officer she spoke with regarding her concerns, contacted her directly on two occasions. This occurred despite her explicitly stating after the first call that such contact was improper. This raises serious concerns about adherence to policies designed to protect complainants and prevent undue influence. We urge a thorough review of this matter and strict enforcement of all relevant standards.

We request an update on the steps being taken to bring Ms. Hankins' assailant to justice and to ensure the safety of her and her family.

From: Tenay Hankins, 313-516-0629, tenayhankins@gmail.com

Complaint Submitted to Detroit Inspector General, January 2025

The Detroit Police Department (DPD) has refused to prosecute the individual who assaulted me, effectively shielding them, and endangering my family because I filed a formal complaint against officers for fraternizing with my assailant and other civil right violations. This form of retaliation includes, but not limited to, discrimination, and dereliction of duty. I urgently request an independent investigator to oversee this complaint, expedite its resolution, and ensure the police take immediate, unbiased action to prosecute my assailant and prevent *further* violence against me. The integrity of the process and my safety must be prioritized and no longer ignored.

This situation has caused immense stress and fear for my family's safety. Despite reporting officer misconduct to the Office of the Chief Investigator and DPD Internal Affairs, no corrective actions have been taken. Instead, with the time delay, and officers being defended, the violent person who declared she would kill me, is not being held accountable, (video and audio evidence given to police). Appeals to the Police Commission to compel DPD to proceed with prosecution were also met with resistance. As of late December 2024, the prosecutor's office had not received case materials from DPD supporting prosecution or post-assault violations.

It is concerning that one of the officers I filed a complaint against recently contacted me to address it. It felt improper. Talking to Assistant Deputy Chief Hope left me feeling violated, retraumatized, and intimidated. She was the very person who months ago declared that no action to hold my assailant accountable "would occur until after the (OCI) investigation." This kind of approach is not only inappropriate but also raises significant concerns about impartiality and due process, which are fundamental to the integrity of any investigation. DPD's inaction shows a lack of seriousness and goes against standard practices for handling complaints. No one in the police department has asked me about our safety, addressed the ongoing and post-assault lawbreaking by my assailant and officer, or taken steps to protect us from further violence.

If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Ragland from my office at yvonne.ragland@detroitmi.gov.

DEPARTMENTAL CONTACT:

Name: Yvonne Ragland

Position: Junior Policy Analyst