



City of Detroit

COUNCILMAN SCOTT R. BENSON

MEMORANDUM

TO: Conrad Mallett, Corporation Counsel, Law Department

FROM: Hon. Scott Benson, City Council District 3

CC: Hon. Latisha Johnson, Chair, Internal Operations Standing Committee
Hon. Janice Winfrey, City Clerk
David Whitaker, Director, LPD
Malik Washington, Mayor's Liaison

VIA: Hon. Council President Mary Sheffield

DATE: 18 February 2025

RE: **REQUEST FOR LEGAL OPINION ON CITY COUNCIL APPROVAL OF EMERGENCY DEMOLITION CONTRACTS**

I am requesting a legal opinion regarding the notification and approval process for emergency demolition contracts to clarify the City Council's role in reviewing and approving these items.

1. Does the City Council have to formally approve emergency demolition contracts?
2. Are these contracts required to be placed on the formal agenda for approval, or should they be received and filed in the standing committee, as the work has been completed and funds paid to the demolition companies. After payment has been made by the administration is there a role for City Council?
3. What are the legal requirements for notifying City Council about emergency demolition contracts, including any specific timeframe or procedural obligations?

Your guidance will help ensure compliance and transparency in the handling of emergency demolitions. Please provide your legal opinion at your earliest convenience.

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

SRB