



MAYOR'S OFFICE

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MEMORANDUM

To: Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway, District 2

From: Melia Howard, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office *Melia Howard*

Date: March 20, 2025

Re: **Response to 2025-2026 Mayor's Office Budget Questions**

Please find below responses to your questions sent on March 13, 2025, regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Mayor's Office.

- 1. The Mayor's Office budget includes allocations for Harvard Business School Leadership for \$168,000 in FY 2026 Proposed. The program continues to FY 2027, FY 2028 and FY 2029. Since a new mayor may elect to cancel the program or change the business school, should the program forecast for future years? Is the City of Detroit legally committed to this program?**

The Harvard Business School (HBS) approached the City of Detroit and initiated this successful program partnership. This partnership is a testament to the amazing progress and work that the City of Detroit has accomplished in recent years and has proven to provide the city with talented young professionals who have had a positive impact on city operations and services. This matching grant funded position is one of many that the City of Detroit relies on to attract and retain some of the best and brightest talent. Other excellent talent attraction and retention programs that the Mayor's Office leans on, especially to recruit and attract talent from Detroit, include the DONs shadow program, Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT), and the Mayoral Fellowship summer program.

The HBS Leadership matching grant requires an annual re-application process, so for FY2027, FY2028, and FY2029, a new administration could choose to apply and keep this great partnership going, but it is not required to do so.

- 2. The Department of Neighborhoods (DON) is part of the Mayor's Office budget. Many DON activities are focused on blight elimination. How do the DONs coordinate with the DPD Neighborhood Police Officers, BSEED inspectors, DLBA staff, PDD staff and other department staff to eliminate blight? If there are overlapping duties and responsibilities, can the DONs be eliminated in future years? Is there a sunset plan?**

The DONs have a monthly blight meeting with neighborhood police officers, BSEED

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inspectors, and environmental inspectors. During these meetings the team goes over any outstanding issues that have been raised by residents. The DONs also coordinate with City departments to remove blight if they notice especially blighted areas while out in the community.

The DONs have been incredibly effective and vital in the operations and continued beautification of the City, as well as providing quality services that residents in their districts deserve. There is currently not a sunset plan for the DONs, but it will be up to the incoming administration to evaluate the DONs and determine the department's future.

3. ARPA funding will end in December 2026. What ARPA funding programs will need general fund support to continue beyond ARPA?

While there are many transformative programs that relied on ARPA dollars to continue the transformative work happening in neighborhoods across the city, not every program will be able to be funded moving forward. Department leadership will evaluate current ARPA programming and make recommendations to the incoming administration on which programs to continue with general fund dollars. However, it will be up to the next administration to make the final determination of whether or not to continue to fund these ARPA programs moving forward.