



## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Detroit Public Safety Headquarters  
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**To:** The Honorable Angela Whitfield-Calloway, City Council District 2

**From:** Todd Bettison, Chief of Police, Detroit Police Department

**Date:** March 26, 2025

**Re:** **Budget questions to the Detroit Police Department**

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Please find below responses to your questions sent on 3/14/2025 regarding the Fiscal Year 2026 Proposed Budget for the Detroit Police Department.

**1. Please provide a plan of action to reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents involving DPD scout cars.**

The Detroit Police Department has adopted a Driver Safety Program that is in the process of being implemented citywide to reduce motor vehicle accidents. The program has several phases, which addresses accidents in two areas. First, by encouraging our officers to make better choices before getting involved in a motor vehicle accident and second, by remedial training and discipline, so members will change their behavior after corrective action. Members initially receive drivers training at the academy, which is a MCOLES mandated thirty-two hours of instruction on the laws and hands-on precision driving. Members who are involved in an accident deemed at-fault have their DPD driver's license suspended and receive remedial driver's training with emphasis on the law and physical driving. The Driver Safety Program is scheduled to introduce in-service Emergency Vehicle Operation training to all Department members starting fiscal year 2025-2026. This is the first time that this type of training is being implemented for our members to sharpen their skills at driving in emergency settings. This includes simulating speed and inclement weather through utilizing a "skid car" device attached to the vehicle, which reduces traction in real time.

Additionally, the Department will continue to have all at-fault accidents heard to the level of Deputy Chief for disciplinary matters. This ensures that the seriousness of the offense is reinforced and members are held accountable through corrective actions, such as written reprimands and suspensions.

The Drivers Safety Program is being coordinated by the Risk Management Unit (RMU) of the Department, which will track and report out on its progress. Currently in development at RMU is a member's accident score, which is a numerical value on the frequency and number of accidents they are involved in. This score will be made available to all commands in the DPD, so supervision can evaluate their members and focus on accident free driving on their shifts. RMU will also follow-



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up with command to ensure driving privileges are suspended and that involved members are attending remedial training. Finally, RMU will review all accidents and provide an analysis for future direction on driving safely, incorporating any new technology or training that may be available.

2. **Last budget year, through a continuing resolution, City Council urged DPD to re-allocate \$2.7 Million in operating funds to a department wide safety program that will reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents involving DPD vehicles and reduce the number and amounts of Law Department settlements concerning these matters. What steps were taken by DPD to reduce scout car traffic accidents?**

In addition to developing the Drivers Safety Program, as stated above, the Department has made changes to its Remedial Driving Program. Originally, the four hour program was comprised of reviewing the state of Michigan's legalities, policies and procedures with use of the department MILO system, which is a stationary video based driving system. In order to increase driver awareness and add realism, we switched to members driving a real vehicle instead of a video based system. This was revised in June of 2024, since that time there have been 5 sessions. 47 total members have participated. Also, to reinforce the seriousness of accidents, and reduce the risk of future accidents, discipline is being heard at the level of Deputy Chief.

3. **Please provide a brief description of the expanded DPD shot spotter program and report on any reduction in violent crime in the expansion areas.**

The Detroit Police Department (DPD) implemented ShotSpotter in March 2021 with approximately 6.5 square miles (2 square miles in the 8th Precinct and 4.5 square miles in the 9th Precinct). Beginning at the end of 2022 and throughout Q1 2023, DPD expanded coverage to approximately 39 square miles in nine of the eleven Precincts. In 2023 (after the expansion was completed) DPD averaged 350 ShotSpotter alerts each week. In 2024, that number decreased to approximately 240 alerts each week. This means that within the 39 square mile coverage area, the City of Detroit experienced a 31% reduction in shots fired incidents. The impact of ShotSpotter can be felt across the city. As part of the Department's layered approach to technology, ShotSpotter has made a considerable contribution to the year over year declines in violent crime.

4. **Please provide a brief description of the DPD shot stopper program and report on any reduction in violent crime in each of the individual project areas. Please note that recent media articles reported one organization obtained a 70% reduction in violent crime in its project area. Please provide details concerning this success and a plan of action to build on this success.**



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The City of Detroit's ShotStopper program is a type of Community Violence Intervention. Historic, persistent gun violence hotspots were identified, and six community groups were granted funding to address underlying issues in those areas. Each group was allowed to devise their own strategies, with the understanding that their performance would be evaluated by their impact on Homicides and Non-Fatal Shootings compared against the change in those crimes in the non-CVI area. For the first year of the program, current performance was compared to metrics from the same quarter during the prior year. Now, the current performance is compared to the average of the same quarters from the prior two years. The percent change is compared to the non-CVI areas. If a CVI group has reduction that is at least 10% better than the non-CVI percent change, that group will receive a partial or full bonus payment. Performance has varied from quarter to quarter; however, overall performance has been promising.

### Recent CVI Metrics

	August - October			November - January			February - April (end 3/17)		
	2024	Prior Years	%Change	2024/2025	Prior Years	%Change	2025	Prior Years	%Change
Non-CVI	174	264	-34.1%	128	196.5	-34.9%	39	86.5	-54.9%
Detroit 300	9	17	-47.1%	11	11	0.0%	11	9.5	15.8%
Detroit Friends & Family	3	18	-83.3%	12	20.5	-41.5%	3	5	-40.0%
Detroit Peoples Community	6	22.5	-73.3%	16	16	0.0%	3	6	-50.0%
Force Detroit	11	23	-52.2%	6	11.5	-47.8%	2	4	-50.0%
New Era CC	12	19	-36.8%	13	14	-7.1%	3	2.5	20.0%
Wayne Metro	14	36	-61.1%	-	-	-	-	-	-

5. **What steps can be taken to have the DPD uniformed force reflect the demographics of the residents that are served every day? What steps can be taken to have more DPD uniformed officers reside in the city?**

Police Recruiting currently participates in recruiting campaigns targeting local residents by visiting schools and community events. We host a program called DPD GREAT, which allows a safe and comfortable space for the community to learn about becoming a police officer, while also providing resources to assist in getting them in a position to be a viable candidate for the application process. This event is followed by a 1-Day Hiring event in the community, which allows applicants to complete most of the hiring process in one day.

### Incentives for Local Candidates:

The Department may offer incentives for local candidates, including a hiring bonus for local residents pursuing law enforcement careers when the budget allows.

### Advertising:



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Police Recruiting uses paid and non-paid social media platforms (Facebook & Instagram, TikTok, & LinkedIn), and radio marketing to advertise throughout Detroit and the Metro Detroit area to reach local and diverse populations. Additionally, our partnership with Emerald Media has allowed for a broader outreach using approximately 21 digital and static billboards placed in Detroit neighborhoods, targeted ads on social media with quantifiable engagement data, Detroit-zoned Cable, OTT/Streaming video and geo-fencing ads in specific areas within the city and areas outside the city where there may be opportunities to reach interested individuals we would not typically have opportunity to engage.

#### **Collaboration with Community Organizations and Local Leaders:**

Police Recruiting collaborates with precinct Neighborhood Police Officers with events they may hold in their respective precinct area. Additionally, Police Recruiting makes an effort to have a presence at community events in general but also follows and attends events being held by City Leaders, events held at Detroit recreation centers, local High Schools, Vocational Schools, Colleges, and Universities. We understand that our city is diverse, but certain areas may reflect a higher population of certain demographics. For those areas, Recruiting has contacts for local leaders who engage with the aforementioned community. With that, there is a continued effort to be present and engage the community in all locations and at all events.

#### **Standards for hiring:**

Detroit follows the MCOLES minimum standard for the hiring process, with some departmental standards being higher than MCOLES. The minimum standards are:

- not less than 18 years of age
- U.S. Citizen
- high school diploma or GED
- possess a valid operator's license
- no felony convictions
- 20/20 vision (can be corrected vision)
- be able to pass MCOLES physical agility and written tests

#### **Education Benefits:**

The Department provides onsite education through Cleary University with tuition reimbursement. Additionally, there have been opportunities for members to participate in Wayne State University's Mike Ilitch School of Business/DPD Cohort Leadership Academy.



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- 6. Please provide a plan of action to avoid high speed police pursuits by utilizing GPS tracking devices contained in darts shot via air guns at the fleeing vehicle. This system is currently being purchased by several police departments including the Dearborn Heights police department.**

The DPD has reached out to Dearborn Heights Police Department's Director Paul Vanderplow, who is over Support Services/Internal Affairs regarding the StarChase system. Although they've had the system for a while they have yet to use it as of February 5, 2025. Upon review of Dearborn Heights policy regarding the StarChase system, the department will not deploy the system in inclement weather, off road, if there are erratic movements by the suspect vehicle, or when pedestrians are in close proximity. There are several other departments that currently have the StarChase system, at this time most are not comparable to the size of Detroit. New York Police Department does have the system, but it is the rifle style system and not mounted to the patrol car. The Department will continue to research and analyze the use of the StarChase system for possible use by the DPD.

- 7. Will DPD need additional funds to comply with the new BOPC policy concerning the release of DPD video?**

DPD has publicly committed to releasing Body Worn Camera video footage forty-five (45) days after an officer involved shooting incident. To date, DPD has fulfilled its promise without a need for additional funding.

As to any other video footage, the videos are retained pursuant to policy and available to the public through a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request.

Should you have further questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Commander Shanda Starks in the Office of the Chief of Police, at (313) 596-1803, Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. or by email at [starkss287@detroiti.gov](mailto:starkss287@detroiti.gov).

Sincerely,

**TODD A BETTISON**  
Chief of Police

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City of Detroit  
Detroit City Council  
Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway  
District 2

## MEMORANDUM

TO: Malik Washington, Administration liaison  
FROM: Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway *AWC*  
DATE: March 14, 2025  
RE: Budget questions to the Detroit Police Department

In anticipation of the March 2025 budget hearings, please forward the following budget questions to the Detroit Police Department (DPD).

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2. Last budget year, through a continuing resolution, City Council urged DPD to re-allocate \$2.7 Million in operating funds to a department wide safety program that will reduce the number of motor vehicle accidents involving DPD vehicles and reduce the number and amounts of Law Department settlements concerning these matters. What steps were taken by DPD to reduce scout car traffic accidents?
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5. What steps can be taken to have the DPD uniformed force reflect the demographics of the residents that are served every day? What steps can be taken to have more DPD uniformed officers reside in the city?



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7. Will DPD need additional funds to comply with the new BOPC policy concerning the release of DPD video?

Please contact our office if you have any questions or concerns – Peter Rhoades,  
[peter.rhoades@detroitmi.gov](mailto:peter.rhoades@detroitmi.gov)