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TO: Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: May 2, 2025

RE: **Mandate for City of Detroit Parking Services to Conduct Wellness Checks on Unhoused People**

Council Member Mary Waters requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) provide information concerning the Municipal Parking Department (MPD) and its contractor's policy regarding unhoused individuals and the ability of the department to conduct wellness checks during routine parking patrols. In response to this inquiry, Municipal Parking has provided the following information. The Department's response is attached for your consideration.

Please contact our office if we can be of any further assistance.

Attachment



CITY OF DETROIT
MUNICIPAL PARKING DEPARTMENT

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To: David Whitaker, Legislative Policy Division
From: Keith Hutchings, Director of Municipal Parking Dept
Date: 3/21/25
Re: **Mandate for City of Detroit Parking Services to Conduct Wellness Checks On Unhoused People**

Please find below responses to your memo sent on 3/21/2025, regarding Municipal Parking (MPD) and its contractor's policy regarding unhoused individuals.

The Municipal Parking Department's encounters with unhoused individuals and families is extremely rare, limiting the benefits of the proposed outreach. MPD enforcement officers (PEO's) regularly suffer verbal and occasionally physical violence. For this reason, MPD instructs PEO's to avoid interactions or unnecessary conversations with individuals. They are trained not to be discourteous but limit conversation to avoid potentially dangerous situations. Additionally, the department is very small and staffed at levels of optimal efficiency. Adding to the PEO role would lead to the inability to maintain the mandated enforcement role of the department. MPD will provide business cards with the contact information of City of Detroit services and provide it to unhoused individuals if interaction occurs during an enforcement shift.

Respectfully Submitted,

Keith Hutchings, Director of the Municipal Parking Department
Cc: M. Sheffield, M. Waters, M. Washington, R. Solomon, J. Parker, S. Nelson