



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

JAMES E. TATE, Jr.
COUNCIL PRO-TEMPORE

MEMORANDUM

TO: Alexa Bush Director, Planning and Development Department
FROM: James Tate, City Council President Pro-Tem
DATE: July 11, 2025
RE: Request for ADA, Universal Design, and Bird Safety Mitigation Details – Zoning Amendment for 560 & 580 Civic Center Drive

As part of our ongoing review of the proposed skybridge and Huntington Place addition, we are requesting a written response from the development team - Neumann Smith and The Sterling Group – detailing the following:

1. **ADA Compliance & Universal Design** – Please outline how the project complies with ADA requirements and incorporates universal design principles, including accessibility features across all pedestrian connections and entry points.
2. **Bird Safety Mitigation Plan** – Please provide a clear description of the project’s bird safety mitigation plan. We understand that bird-safe glass is not currently required by ordinance, but we are seeking confirmation of what strategies will be implemented to address potential bird strike risks. What plans are in place to mitigate bird safety concerns, should the issue arise?

We’d appreciate receiving this information in writing at your earliest convenience to inform Council’s review process. If there are any questions, please contact Jacqueline Ramsey, Policy Analyst, at Jacqueline.Ramsey@detroitmi.gov.

CC:

Elie Torgow, Sterling Group
Neumann/Smith Group
Jamie Murphy, City Planner – Legislative Policy Division
Edwina King, Associate Director – Legislative Affairs & Equitable Development
Aaron Goodman, Planner – Planning and Development Department
Malik Washington, City Council Liaison, Mayor’s Office