



Detroit Health Department
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To: Honorable Detroit City Council

From: Denise Fair Razo, Chief Public Health Officer

Date: August 4, 2025

RE: Proposed 10% Fee Schedule Increase for the Detroit Health Department

The Detroit Health Department respectfully submits this memorandum and attached documentation to request approval for a proposed 10% increase to the current fee schedule for the Detroit Health Department Food Sanitation and Environmental Health and Safety Division. This adjustment is a necessary step to ensure the continued quality, sustainability, and responsiveness of our team as well to align with industry best practices.

Background

The Environmental Health and Food Safety Division plays a critical role in protecting the public health of Detroit residents by:

- Inspecting and licensing food establishments and temporary food vendors.
- Inspecting and licensing various community-related businesses such as pools, childcare facilities, tattoo parlors, hotels, and others.
- Conducting investigations of foodborne illness and environmental complaints including outbreaks of Legionella and West Nile Virus.
- Providing guidance and enforcement on sanitation, food handling, and health codes.
- Monitoring compliance with state and local health regulations.

These services are essential to preventing disease, ensuring food and environmental safety, and maintaining a healthy environment for residents and visitors.

Justification for the Fee Increase

The fee schedule has remained unchanged since 2015, and increases are long overdue. The proposed 10% increase reflects a combination of factors:

- **Rising Operational Costs:** Over the past several years, the costs associated with staffing, training, equipment, regulatory compliance, and required state fees that we pay, have steadily increased.
- **Alignment with Peer Jurisdictions:** Our proposed fees remain aligned with those charged in comparable Michigan cities and counties. This adjustment helps maintain equity while aligning with regional standards.



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- **Maintaining Service Quality:** The additional revenue will directly support improvements in service delivery, reduce inspection backlogs, and help ensure timely responses to public health concerns.

Moving forward, the Department is committed to ensuring that the Division's fee schedule is reviewed and updated annually by 3-5%, which aligns with industry standards, as part of the budget development process.

Impact on Stakeholders

The Department acknowledges the potential impact on businesses and stakeholders and is committed to communicating changes clearly and providing resources to support compliance. The proposed increase has been structured to minimize hardship while maintaining the integrity and quality of our services and account for rising inflation rates.

Conclusion and Request

The Detroit Health Department recommends the approval of a 10% fee increase for all Environmental Health and Food Safety-related fees, effective upon full city council approval. This adjustment is vital to sustaining our core functions and continuing to protect the health and safety of all Detroiters.

We appreciate your consideration and are available to provide additional information or respond to questions at your convenience.