

**City of Detroit**  
**CITY COUNCIL**

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**TO:** The Honorable Detroit City Council

**FROM:** David D. Whitaker  
Legislative Policy Division Staff

**DATE:** September 22, 2025

**RE:** **Ombudsperson Application Process (AMENDED)**

The Legislative Policy Division (LPD) is providing this memorandum to clarify the interview process to conclude City Council's selection of a new Ombudsperson. A draft resolution specifying the process is attached.

If there are additional questions, please advise.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER \_\_\_\_\_ :

**AMENDED RESOLUTION ADOPTING AN INTERVIEW PROCESS  
FOR THE SELECTION OF THE OMBUDSPERSON**

**WHEREAS,** The Ombudsperson is appointed by City Council to a ten-year term (Detroit City Charter Section 5.5-401). The term of the current Ombudsperson will expire on Saturday, October 4, 2025; and

**WHEREAS,** City Council has posted the position and received interest from qualified applicants for the appointment to a new ten-year term. City Council has chosen ten persons to interview from that pool of qualified applicants. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** City Council has chosen the following interview process for the final selection of a new Ombudsperson.

1. Based upon your Honorable Body's selection of the ten candidates to be interviewed, all interviews shall be conducted in open session within the Committee of the Whole to be scheduled to occur on September 18, 2025. The interviews will be conducted in alphabetical order, and the candidates will be sequestered prior to their interview.
2. In fairness to all interviewees, the Committee of the Whole **WILL NOT** be a hybrid meeting. The meeting will be conducted in-person with public comment only available in-person. The meeting will be aired in its entirety after all of interviews have concluded.
3. A background check of each interviewee shall be conducted, prior to the vote to appoint the new Ombudsperson.
4. Once the interviews have concluded, City Council shall, during a voting session, implement a run-off voting system to narrow the pool of candidates to three. The run-off system shall require members to vote for three candidates in rank order, with the most preferred candidate listed in the first position. The preferred candidate shall receive 3 points, the second 2, and the third 1. There shall be no plunking. If necessary, City Council may implement other voting strategies to narrow the number of finalists to three.
5. City Council shall vote to appoint a new Ombudsperson from the remaining candidates until a single candidate obtains the two-thirds (2/3) majority vote as required under Charter Section 7.5-401. If no candidate receives a two-thirds vote of members serving, *i.e.* 6 votes after two rounds of voting, only the two candidates with the highest number of votes shall be considered further. If there is a tie for second place, then the Council shall vote between the tied candidates to determine who will be considered further.

September 22, 2025