Memorandum

To: Honorable Nancy Blount, Chief Judge, 36th District Court

From: Council President Pro Tempore Mary Sheffield

CC: Honorable Colleagues, Mayor Mike Duggan, LPD, City Clerk

Date: 3/14/2019

Re: Questions for the 36th District Court Budget Hearing

1. Projected revenues for Fines, Forfeits, and Penalties are $317,000 less than last year's adopted budget.  
   Why is there a 39% projected decrease in this revenue source? What effect will this have on the Court’s operations?

2. In an effort to ensure the judicial system does not the favor the rich and punish the poor, I have proposed the elimination of the cash bail system in Detroit.  
   How much is collected in cash bails annually and how much is forfeited? What expenditures are the forfeited cash bail funds used to fund?

3. At a recent Eviction Summit, it was stated that the 36th District Court hears approximately 35,000 landlord/tenant cases annually. As a part of the People’s Bills I’ve introduced, I am proposing a Right to Counsel Ordinance for individuals facing eviction.  
   What percentage of cases and court expenditures are related to landlord/tenant cases?  
   Will a significant reduction in the number of these cases save the Court money and time?

4. A number of encounters with law enforcement are a direct result of mental health issues and consequently involve individuals with addiction problems. The proposed budget has an 11% decrease in the Drug Court expenditure at a time when the Nation is mired in an opioid crisis.  
   Why is there a reduction in the expenditure for the Drug Court? What is the adequate level of funding for the Drug Court and what are the financial and social consequences of failing to properly fund it?