



BOARD OF ETHICS  
DETROIT

Butzel Family Center  
7737 Kercheval Rd., Suite 213  
Detroit, MI 48214  
[www.detroitethics.org](http://www.detroitethics.org)  
(313) 224-9521

February 18, 2026

Detroit City Council  
1340 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Detroit, MI 48226

RE: Request to Lift Privilege on Legislative Policy Division Memo into Separate Legal Counsel for BOE and Responding Memos from Executive Director Christal Phillips and the Law Department

Dear City Council,

The Board of Ethics is requesting that the privilege be lifted on the Legislative Policy Division memo "Inquiry Into Separate Legal Counsel for Independent Agencies in Detroit" and responding memos from Board of Ethics Executive Director Christal Phillips, "Examples of Law Department Overreach in Board of Ethics Matters," and the Law Department's response to the Legislative Policy Division's memo.

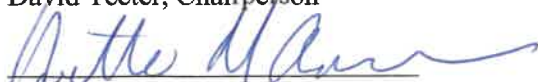
Members and staff of the Board of Ethics were looking forward to attending City Council's closed session meeting on Tuesday, February 3, 2026, to discuss the aforementioned memos. Executive Director Christal Phillips emailed the Legislative Policy Division a list of Board of Ethics members and staff who wanted to attend the closed session meeting. She was told that only active participants and those likely to speak would be allowed to attend, excluding the majority of Board of Ethics staff and the members who wished to attend. Only Executive Director Phillips and Senior Investigator Dawn Widman were allowed to attend the Closed Session meeting where the memos were shared with participants.

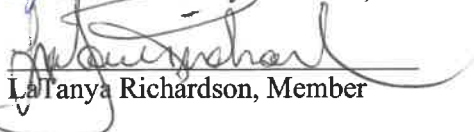
These memos were provided to City Council last year. To this day, none of the Board of Ethics members have read these memos or participated in crucial decision-making discussions about the Board of Ethics' future. These actions do not respect the Board of Ethics' right to independence as an oversight agency and to vital information regarding the board's operations.

For the sake of governmental transparency and ethics, and to prevent further delays in the board's review of these memos, we are asking that these documents finally be shared with all Board of Ethics members and staff.

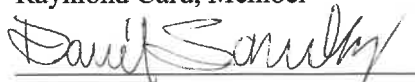
Respectfully,

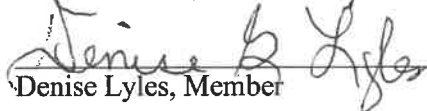
  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Teeter, Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Yvette McElroy Anderson, Vice Chairperson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
LaTanya Richardson, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Raymond Card, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
David Sanchez, Member

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Denise Lyles, Member