

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

DENZEL ANTON MCCAMPBELL COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 7

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jo Anne G. Mondowney, Executive Director
Detroit Public Library

THRU: Council President James Tate

FROM: Council Member Denzel Anton McCampbell 

DATE: March 18, 2026

RE: FY27 Budget Hearing Follow Up – Detroit Public Library

Thank you again for your time and for the presentation during the recent hearing. We appreciate the library's willingness to walk through current operations and respond to council questions. As a follow-up, I have a few additional questions so I can better understand some of the issues discussed on the record and areas that may come up in future policy discussions.

- 1) What is the current backlog of maintenance or capital improvements across library branches, and how long will it take to address it under the current budget?
- 2) Are there branches with limited accessibility (ADA compliance, transit access, hours, etc.) that prevent residents from fully using library services?
- 3) How many current library employees are Detroit residents? How does that compare to five years ago?
- 4) Please explain why it is not common practice to alert DPL card holders when their library card is going to expire, especially with many of the services being online? Is there a plan to implement a new process to notify card holders?
- 5) How much of the library's programming is funded by temporary grants rather than stable operating funds? What happens to those services if grants disappear?
- 6) There are currently three branches closed (Knapp, Monteith, and Skillman), what is the status of getting them up and running again?
- 7) What is the staffing vacancy rate by branch? How long do positions typically remain unfilled?
- 8) Thomas A. Edison Branch
 - a. What capital improvements are needed at the branch?
 - b. Are there any plans to expand the Edison Branch?
 - c. Since the branch is the only one in the district, has there been any discussion about adding an additional day? Right now, the library is open Monday – Thursday and Saturday. How much would it cost to open the library on Friday?

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- 9) District 7 currently has the 2nd highest population of children across city districts. Currently, the district only has one branch on the western side of the district. Do you have any plans to open an additional branch in District 7?
 - a. What is the cost to build another branch?

Please do not hesitate to contact my office if you have any questions. Thank you.

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Louise Jones, City Clerk's Office
Malik Washington, Director of City Government Affairs