

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Bell, Director
Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department

THRU: Council Member James Tate, Council President

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: March 24th, 2026

RE: Requesting Updates on Cost Analysis and Inspector Training

To better understand the capacity of the Buildings, Safety Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED), please provide updates and information to my office:

1. During every Dangerous Building Hearing, I have made a request for a cost analysis on several structures which are then referred back to BSEED. Please provide:
 - a. How many structures and residences are still in the process of a cost analysis?
 - b. Responses for all cost analysis which have not already been provided.
 - i. For your analysis, please include not only the full cost but also the minimum amount needed to get the structure up to code and withdrawn from the dangerous buildings list.
2. Addressing the quality and safety of housing in the City of Detroit has been an ongoing issue for several years¹. Please provide an overview of:
 - a. The training that is required for inspectors to complete, either through BSEED, other city processes, or external certifications to continue to be employed.
 - b. What systems of accountability exist to address instances of complaints or unsatisfactory inspector work?
 - c. The number of reports received stating a negative personal experience with a city inspector, including harassment of any kind or neglect of duty.

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

¹ <https://www.bridgedetroit.com/detroit-seniors-sick-of-rental-housing-conditions-demand-change/>