

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Todd Bettison, Chief of Police
Detroit Police Department

THRU: Council Member James Tate, Council President

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: March 20, 2026

RE: Budget Question Follow-ups

Information Regarding Truck Traffic Enforcement

In the Public Health and Safety Standing Committee meeting on March 2nd, 2026, the Detroit Police Department presented a proposed Motor Carrier Enforcement Unit, which would work to enforce against violations committed by commercial truck traffic and other traffic violations. Please provide insight to the following questions regarding this proposed unit:

1. How much would a Motor Carrier Enforcement (MCE) unit cost yearly to operate in an effective capacity in district six?
2. How much would an MCE unit cost yearly to operate at full capacity, as defined by DPD's desired scope of need for the services?
3. Would a minimally staffed MCE unit face any difficulty in generating the returns required for the unit to be self-sustaining?
4. Could a minimally staffed MCE unit generate returns required for the unit to expand in future years?
5. If the City invested in a minimally or fully funded MCE unit, what is the trajectory for the growth of the unit over the next 5-10 years? Over the same time period, what is the projected trajectory for revenue generation?

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Information Regarding Downtown Event Staffing by DPD

Residents have complained about the lack of police response and presence during the summer months, and especially during major downtown events:

Please provide the following information regarding the activities of the Detroit Police Department (DPD):

1. Can DPD be requested or required to staff downtown events?
2. If so, share the list of special events, from January 2025 forward, which had DPD Officers assigned.
 - a. Please provide a list of special events where DPD officers were specifically assigned and/or requested through the Special Events Application.
 - b. Please provide a list of special events that DPD officers are assigned to downtown through their department.
3. Please provide information on the number of events DPD has staffed in the city which did not require DPD officers.
4. Does the DPD have to be the only source to staff downtown events for traffic and safety? Can event providers like the Grand Prix hire outside staff to help with traffic and safety?

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, City Council Liaison