

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

DENZEL ANTON MCCAMPBELL
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 7

MEMORANDUM

TO: Todd Bettison, Chief
Detroit Police Department

THRU: Council President James Tate

FROM: Council Member Denzel Anton McCampbell 

DATE: March 26, 2026

RE: FY27 Budget Hearing Follow Up – Detroit Police Department

Thank you again for your time and for the presentation during the recent hearing. We appreciate the Department'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) Strategic Goal #8 is 'a leaner police organization that provides value for money spent.' The proposed FY 2027 budget is \$466.9 million, an increase of \$11.5 million over the current budget. While crime rates have in most, if not all categories, have hit record lows, while still having a high FTE vacancies rate, in what sense is DPD becoming leaner?
- 2) As of February 4, 2026, DPD's actual headcount was 3,471.5 FTE against an authorized strength of 3,522, leaving 50.5 positions vacant. Now you are asking for authorization to increase to 3,588.5 FTE in FY27, adding another 66.5 positions on top of a department that could not fill its existing vacancies for a total of 117 vacancies. Why should Council authorize 66.5 new positions when the department cannot fill the ones it already has?
 - a. What is the current vacancy rate broken down by classification and division? Which precincts and units are most understaffed, and how long have those vacancies been open on average?
 - b. Can you provide a list of the specific positions being added in FY27, the divisions they are assigned to, and the justification for each one?
 - c. The training budget (370686) is slightly down despite adding 66.5 new positions. How will the department train additional officers without a corresponding increase in the training budget?
- 3) This budget adds 9 more Downtown Services police officer positions (from 113 to 122 FTE in cost center 372011). Downtown Services already has one of the higher per-officer budgets. Is this increase driven by a contract with private downtown entities or the DEGC, and if so, who is paying for it?

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- 4) Professional and Contractual Services in the GF explodes from \$3.6 million in FY26 to \$8.5 million in FY27 — an increase of \$4.9 million, or 138%. That is by far the largest percentage increase of any expenditure category. What specific contracts or professional services account for this dramatic jump? Please name the vendors, the contract amounts, and the services they provide. Include potential contracts and professional services too.
- 5) The FY27 budget includes \$5,700,000 in one-time expenditure. What specific items or initiatives are being funded as one-time expenditures, and why are they one-time rather than recurring?
- 6) Has City Council ever been presented with a full inventory of DPD's surveillance technology contracts — including facial recognition, ALPRs, gunshot detection, and predictive analytics — in a single document that includes contract values, data-retention terms, and third-party data-sharing provisions? If not, will the department provide one?
- 7) What is the DPD's success rate in using facial recognition, ALPRs, gunshot detection, Project Green Light and other video surveillance, and predictive analytics that ended in conviction without those convictions being overturned?
 - a. Per each technology, how many incidents were detected and how many of those ended in arrest, prosecution, conviction, and convictions overturned on appeal?
- 8) It has been reported that Flock Safety, a company the city contracts with for automatic license plate readers, has sold data captured from cameras all around the country to third parties. Detroit's data could have been implicated in this and in apparent violation of the contract and without the knowledge or consent of the city. Is this accurate? Has DPD, Law Department, OCP, or any other relevant departments investigated this allegation?
 - a. Has the city demanded an accounting from Flock Safety of every third party to whom Detroit resident data could have been sold or transferred, the dates of those transfers, the categories of data shared, and the dollar amounts received by Flock Safety for those transfers?
 - b. How many ALPR cameras are currently deployed in the City, where are they located, and is the location data public available. Please provide a GIS-powered searchable map.
 - c. Has DPD ever shared Flock Safety data or provided access to Flock's system with federal agencies, including ICE, HSI, ERO, CBP, U.S. Marshals, the FBI, or the DEA? If so, under what legal authority and without what judicial oversight?
 - d. Why are the City of Detroit's Flock cameras not a part of the Flock Transparency Portal? Do you commit today to be a part of Flock Transparency Portal by the end of the year?
- 9) Is DPD currently using facial recognition technology? If yes, what system is it, who is the vendor, what is the contract cost, and is that cost reflected in this budget under Professional and Contractual Services?
 - a. What safeguards are in place to ensure we do not have wrongful arrests like we have had in the past?
 - b. Has DPD conducted an independent audit of its facial recognition system for racial bias? If so, what were the findings, and is that report publicly available? If not, will the department commit to commissioning one?

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- c. Does DPD's current facial recognition policy require a human reviewer to independently verify any match before an arrest or detention is made? Does it prohibit using a facial recognition match as the sole basis for arrest?
- 10) DPD is asking for renewing the contract with ShotSpotter \$2.6 million. Currently, the 3-year contract has cost the city \$7 million with the following rates with an average response rate of just over 39 minutes and for 911 calls being about 12 minutes. Even if you take out the outliers, there is a 30 second difference between ShotSpotter and 911 calls. What evidence does the department have that ShotSpotter reduces gun violence in Detroit, and has an independent study been conducted?
 - a. ShotSpotter has faced documented accuracy concerns in other cities, with studies finding high rates of false activations and evidence that the system disproportionately directs police contact toward Black neighborhoods. Has DPD conducted its own analysis of false activation rates and geographic deployment patterns in Detroit?
 - b. How many ShotSpotter incidents were detected and how many of those ended in arrest, prosecution, conviction, and convictions overturned on appeal?
- 11) How many Project Green Light cameras are currently operational in Detroit? What is the annual cost of the program — including maintenance, staffing for monitoring, and any technology contracts — and where is that cost reflected in this budget?
 - a. Is Project Green Light camera footage shared with any federal agencies? Has it been used in federal immigration enforcement operations? And is the city's contract with any Project Green Light technology vendor subject to the same type of third-party data-sale restriction that appears to have been violated in the Flock Safety contract? When are those audits and oversight performed and what have were the results?
- 12) The Office of Analysis and Strategy is budgeted at \$2.75 million. Does DPD use any predictive policing software, for example, systems that generate 'risk scores' for individuals or flag neighborhoods for pre-emptive enforcement? If so, what systems, at what cost, and has any racial bias audit been conducted?
- 13) The budget includes \$291,188 for Mental Health Co-Response Sworn Training as a one-time initiative. This is a remarkably small investment, \$291,188 out of a \$447 million budget, for a program that is supposed to expand to all 12 precincts and operate 24/7. Is this amount sufficient? And why is mental health co-response trained by sworn officers rather than co-deployed with unarmed mental health professionals? Why aren't other models for sole-mental health response like CAHOOTS or CROS not being used?
- 14) Does DPD have policies on the following: banning chokeholds and strangleholds, requires de-escalation, requires warnings before shooting, requires exhausting all alternatives before shooting, a duty to intervene, banning shooting at moving vehicles, has a use of force continuum, and requires comprehensive reporting?

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

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