

# City of Detroit


## CITY COUNCIL

**DENZEL ANTON MCCAMPBELL**  
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 7

### MEMORANDUM

TO: Kevin Johnson, President and CEO  
Detroit Economic Growth Corporation

THRU: Council President James Tate

FROM: Council Member Denzel Anton McCampbell 

DATE: March 26, 2026

RE: FY27 Budget Hearing Follow Up – Detroit Economic Growth Council

Thank you again for your time and for the presentation during the recent hearing. We appreciate the DEGC'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) DECG and EDC are private non-profits separate from the city, so what are the clear public returns on investment from our General Fund allocations?
  - a. What specific outcomes justify continued funding over core services like housing, transit, and public safety?
  - b. Why should taxpayers subsidize an entity primarily facilitating private development deals?
  - c. What portion of your work would not occur without public subsidy?
- 2) For line items 360134 and 360135, what measurable deliverables are tied to each dollar, and where can the public track performance?
- 3) Of the projects supported last year, how many resulted in permanent jobs for Detroit residents—and at what wage levels? (Break down: full-time vs. part-time, living wage vs. not, and jobs accessible without advanced degrees.)
  - a. Do you track whether jobs created through your projects actually lead to economic stability for residents? (For example, can workers afford housing in Detroit based on those wages?)
- 4) Your model focuses on attracting capital—what direct investments are you making in the workers who sustain that growth?
  - a. What percentage of projects include workforce development, transit access, or other supports?

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- b. How are you incorporating people-based economic development, like transportation, housing affordability, and cost of living, into project approvals?
  - c. How are you coordinating with DDOT, HRD, and other departments to ensure economic growth is not disconnected from livability?
  - d. Businesses rely on functioning systems—transit, public safety, housing stability—so how is DEGC aligning its investments with those systems?
- 5) Where are your investments going—and where is the money concentrated? Are both projects and total dollars equitably distributed across neighborhoods, or primarily in the city core?
- 6) What is one example where DEGC funding failed to deliver promised outcomes, and what changed afterward?
- 7) Give one example of a project that did not deliver promised outcomes—what went wrong, and what changed in your process afterward?
- a. Looking back, are there deals you would not approve today? If so, what standards or safeguards have been added?
- 8) You've identified sectors like defense manufacturing as growth opportunities—how do you evaluate the broader social and ethical impacts of those investments when public dollars are involved?
- 9) What conversations have taken place regarding the regulation and oversight of data centers in Detroit?
- a. How are you ensuring these developments do not strain natural resources, increase energy demand, or drive up utility costs for residents?
  - b. What standards or guardrails are being developed around water usage, energy consumption, and climate impact before supporting or incentivizing these projects?

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