



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

JAMES E. TATE, Jr.
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Public Lighting Authority (PLA); Public Lighting Department (PLD)
CC: Office of Budget; Legislative Policy Division
FROM: Council President James Tate Jr.
DATE: Friday, March 27, 2026

RE: Budget Hearing Follow up - **Infrastructure and Service Response Review**

This memorandum requests updated information regarding the Public Lighting Authority (PLA) and Public Lighting Department (PLD), with a focus on funding allocation, infrastructure improvements, and service performance.

The Mayor's proposed budget includes a \$1 million increase to the PLA operating budget to support the Mid-Block Lighting Program. Please clarify how this funding will be allocated and approximately how many new mid-block lights are expected to be installed.

Please provide an update on lighting infrastructure improvements, including the status of light pole and fixture replacement along Grand River from Asbury Park to Evergreen, as well as any ongoing or planned replacement efforts within District 1.

Additionally, describe what steps are being taken to improve service response times and maintenance efficiency for residents, including how the department is addressing current outages and backlog.

Clarify how lighting improvements are prioritized across neighborhoods, including residential streets, commercial corridors, and areas with aging infrastructure or public safety concerns.

Please also clarify whether the department has conducted any analysis or planning related to alley lighting in Detroit, and whether coordination with DTE Energy, particularly where lighting infrastructure is attached to DTE power lines, affects the feasibility of expanding lighting coverage into alleys.

Finally, provide information on whether smart lighting technology is being considered or implemented, and how such technology could improve maintenance efficiency and reduce long term operational costs.

If there are any questions, please contact Taylor Davis, Policy Analyst, at Taylor.Davis@detroitmi.gov.

Malik Washington, Mayor's Office

Breanna Sullivan, Mayor's Office