

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

DENZEL ANTON MCCAMPBELL
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 7

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lewis Moore, Chair
Board of Review

THRU: Council President James Tate

FROM: Council Member Denzel Anton McCampbell 

DATE: March 31, 2026

RE: FY27 Budget Hearing Follow Up – Board of Review

Thank you again for your time and for the presentation during the recent hearing. We appreciate the Board'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) The Board of Review hears and determines appeals from property tax assessments. Property taxation in Detroit has a deeply troubled history of high rates of overassessments and foreclosures. Given this history, what is the Board of Review's current role in preventing ongoing assessment errors, and does the Board proactively identify systematic over-assessment rather than relying solely on individual appeals?
- 2) How many property tax assessment appeals did the Board of Review hear in the most recent complete fiscal year? Of those, how many resulted in a reduction of the assessed value? What was the total dollar value of assessment reductions granted?
 - a. Are appeals disproportionately filed by commercial property owners, landlords, or higher-income homeowners who have the knowledge and resources to navigate the process while low-income Black homeowners, who were most harmed by over-assessment, remain unaware of or unable to access the appeals process?
 - b. Is appeal data tracked by the race, income level, and zip code of the appellant?
- 3) The Board of Review's total budget decreases from \$1,187,108 (FY 2026 adopted) to \$1,129,869 (FY 2027 proposed)—a reduction of \$57,239 or 4.8%. Given the ongoing legacy of property tax over-assessment in Detroit and the continued need for robust appeals infrastructure, what is the justification for this cut?
- 4) Does the Board of Review conduct any outreach to inform residents of their right to appeal? If so, what form does this outreach take, and is it targeted to the neighborhoods most affected by historical over-assessment? Is outreach conducted in languages other

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than English, and is it accessible to residents with disabilities, elderly residents, and residents without internet access?

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