



City of Detroit

COUNCILMAN SCOTT R. BENSON

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division
FROM: Hon. Scott Benson, City Council District 3

CC: Hon. Angela Calloway, Chair, Internal Operations Standing Committee
Hon. Janice Winfrey, City Clerk
Malik Washington, Mayor's Liaison
Conrad Mallett, Corporation Council

VIA: Hon. Council President James E. Tate

DATE: 25 January 2026

RE: TRACKING INCIDENTS DURING CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC COMMENT

In light of the vulgar and disruptive remarks made during public comment this morning, I am requesting that the Legislative Policy Division develop a process to track incidents that occur during City Council public comment. Public comment must remain open and accessible, but the City should also maintain a consistent record when conduct crosses the line and interferes with decorum, safety, or the orderly conduct of Council business.

This process should capture incidents such as vulgar or threatening statements, repeated disruptions, removals, and any other conduct that materially affects Council proceedings. A formal tracking mechanism will provide continuity from session to session and create a factual basis for evaluating whether policy, procedural, or enforcement changes are warranted.

If you have any questions, do not hesitate to contact my office at 313-224-1198.

SRB