

City of Detroit


CITY COUNCIL

GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
COUNCIL MEMBER, DISTRICT 6

MEMORANDUM

TO: Todd Bettison, Chief of Police
Detroit Police Department

THRU: Council Member James Tate, Council President

FROM: Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero 

DATE: April 13, 2026

RE: Information on DPD Storage Requirements

City Council has recently received concerns on the storage, maintenance, and handling of the biological evidence used by the Detroit Police Department. The Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) issued a Citation and Notification of Penalty to Detroit Police Department's (DPD) Crime Scene Services in December of 2025, stating the revealed conditions do not comply with the provisions of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act. These citations included total proposed penalties up to \$10,000.

Information on the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration website says that the inspection has *not* been indicated as closed.¹

Please provide the following information:

1. The current training process which DPD Officers and/or Crime Scene Services must attend and/or follow when processing and storing biohazard materials.
 - a. Include information on:
 - i. How often this training takes place.
 - ii. The last time training took place and how many officers or employees attended.
2. An outline of the storage process and an explanation of why the process ended up receiving the citations.
 - a. Include an explanation of:
 - i. Storage requirements of the items which were the reason for citation.
 - ii. DPD and Crime Scene Service's processes for handling material.

¹ https://www.osha.gov/ords/imis/establishment.inspection_detail?id=1834910.015&id=1834910#1834910

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- iii. Accountability measures required by MIOHSA and DPD rules and regulations.
3. Please list which funds are used to cover the thousands of dollars of costs in citations.
4. If contesting the citation, how does the department plan to improve the status of the facility and remediate the issue?

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

Cc: Honorable Detroit City Council
Malik Washington, Director, City Government Affairs