



City of Detroit
Detroit City Council - District 4

MEMORANDUM

DATE: March 16th, 2022

TO: David Whittaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division

FROM: Latisha Johnson 
District 4 Councilmember

THROUGH: Pro Tem James Tate, Chair, Planning and Economic Development

SUBJECT: DBA Land Sales

Mr. Whittaker, I would like to request that a 1-pager is provided by the Planning and Development Department/Detroit Building Authority (DBA) when submitting their property sales to Council. The Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) submits 1-page summaries regarding their property sales, which provide more context regarding these transactions. In full transparency, this information is important not only for City Council Staff but also for community members. I understand that CPC provides a review regarding land sales, however, these 1-pagers should be viewed as a supplement to the CPC review that is provided. There have been countless situations where DBA sales have been flagged by community members. There should be additional information provided about these transactions publicly than the Council Letter and Resolution of Sale documentation.

In addition, I would like to request that LPD provide answers to the following questions regarding DBA:

1. How many properties does the DLBA currently manage, and how many are lots, residential parcels, or commercial parcels?
2. Why are there two separate entities (DBA and DLBA) that hold publicly owned land?

3. How is the public notified regarding these DBA Land Sales that are ultimately approved by council?
4. Can the DBA to provide a quarterly report to Council, similar to the report that is submitted by the Land Bank?

If you have any questions, please contact Gary Gray at 313-224-4841.

CC: Marcell Todd, LPD, CPC
Donald Rencher, Group Executive
Elizabeth Kmetz-Armitage, Deputy Group Executive
Gail Fulton, City Council Liaison