

Dear Honorable Body of the Detroit City Council,

The Metro Detroit Black Business Alliance seeks to create programs and advocate for policies that result in thriving Black owned businesses. Since our inception in March 2021, we have secured over \$5M for Black businesses and dedicated over 200 hours of technical assistance to our over 500 members.

Through our Truth to Power series and other policy events, we have worked hard to ensure that Black businesses are truly viewed as the powerful constituency that they are in the region.

In the City of Detroit, Black businesses are more likely to employ Detroiters. Black businesses contribute to commercial corridors downtown and in the neighborhoods. Black businesses create economic pathways out of poverty. Yet, Black businesses are more likely to fail than other businesses. Black businesses are denied access to capital more than any other business. Black businesses were impacted by Covid more than any other group. Black businesses are often the last considered when decisions are being made.

The Food Grading Ordinance is an example of this disparity in action. We were notified of this huge ordinance, not by the City, but by an advocacy group on Wednesday, July 20, 2022. We convened our members on Friday, July 22, 2022 to get their input on this ordinance. Our members raised many legitimate concerns and deserve the opportunity to raise those concerns before this ordinance becomes law.

On behalf of Black restaurants, food trucks and other food based organizations in Detroit, we have asked for a delay to allow Black businesses the opportunity to weigh in before any voting, but were denied that request.

We respectfully ask Detroit City Council please do not pass this ordinance into law without allowing Black businesses to have a real opportunity to provide input.

Thank you for your consideration,

Charity Dean, President/ CEO, Metro Detroit Black Business Alliance

Good Cakes and Bakes

Chef Carter

The Commons

The Block

Floods Bar and Grille

Kija Bakes

Soul Brothers Catering

The Kitchen by Cooking with Que

Petty Cash

Kuzzos Chicken and Waffles

Jed's Pizza

Coop - The Detroit Shipping Co.

Pequeno Cantina

Rosemary

Rosa

Cascade and Monroe Catering

Central Kitchen

SkyBar

Chita's Nefertiti

Good Vibes lounge

Views Bar & Grill

Ivy Kitchen & Cocktails

Lighthouse Yoga

Humble Brothers Construction

Marrow

The Royce

Mink

sacre LC

Hell on Wheelz

Dr Geneva Speaks

Lavish the Lifestyle

CPA by the Numberz

Black Pepper Studios

Tuke Firm

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