



## City of Detroit

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### CITY COUNCIL

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**MARY SHEFFIELD**  
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
DISTRICT 5

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Crystal Perkins, Director, General Services Department  
**FROM:** Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council  
**DATE:** March 27, 2023  
**RE:** General Services Department (GSD), Budget Hearing Questions, Fiscal Year 2023/2024

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### SUMMARY:

1. GSD's Grounds Maintenance Division cuts grass and removes litter at city parks in city-owned vacant lots, manages snow and ice removal at municipal facilities, cleans 220 bus shelters, and operates flower beds. Our office has received complaints regarding the lack of grass cutting. What is the department's plan to ensure that grass cutting is consistent?
  - a. Is grass cutting done in-house or is this service contracted out?
    - i. If this service is contracted out, how does the department hold these contractors accountable? What penalties and fines has the department issued to-date? When does the current contract expire? How much would it cost for this service to be moved in-house?
2. GSD's Maintenance Division also provides exterior maintenance of Detroit Land Bank Authority properties. What percentage of Land Bank properties does GSD service? What does exterior maintenance include? What is the department's plan to address the cleanliness and exterior maintenance of Land Bank properties that house rodents?
3. How are residents being informed of maintenance projects in their neighborhoods as it relates to alley cleaning and paving? Please provide the alley cleaning schedule for all districts.
4. What is the current process for a resident to request removal of a diseased tree? Has there been a current study indicating how many diseased trees are in the city of Detroit? If not, how much would this study cost and what is its possible timeline of completion?
5. Our office has also received complaints surrounding issues with Hart Plaza. Is GSD responsible for the Plaza's cleanliness? If so, what is its current cleaning and maintenance schedule?

- a. The Hart Plaza's pyramid structure and stairs are in poor condition. Additionally, the fountain has been in disrepair for years. Please provide an update on the department's plan to rehab its infrastructure.
6. What is the department's plan to provide quality, timely services for snow removal? What municipal facilities benefit from the department's snow removal services?
7. What is the rate of employee turnover at the department? Is the department currently experiencing a staffing shortage? If so, what are the barriers to filling these positions?
8. Between FY 23 and FY 24, there is a \$370,000 decrease in appropriation for Detroit Animal Care and Control. What is the reason for this decrease?
9. There is a \$4M increase in the proposed FY24 budget for parks and public space management. How will this money be used? Is the reason for this increase due to Joe Louis Greenway project? What is its expected end date?
10. In FY 2024, there will be a \$5M decrease in GSD's recreation budget. Can the decrease be attributed to the number of recreation centers that are currently closed to residents? What other reasons are there for this decrease? Please provide an update on all recreation centers.

Please contact Caryn Shannon from my office at [caryn.shannon@detroitmi.gov](mailto:caryn.shannon@detroitmi.gov) if you have any questions.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues  
City Clerk