



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division

THROUGH: Council Member Latisha Johnson, Chair, Internal Operations Standing Committee

FROM: Council President Mary Sheffield

DATE: March 6, 2023

RE: **Requesting an Opinion on Right to Counsel Funding Opinion**

In October, we received an opinion from Corporation Counsel on the funding options to support the needs of Right to Counsel and the Office of Eviction Defense. It has been shown that the \$2 million allocated for Right to Counsel is not enough to cover the amount of people in Detroit that face eviction annually. There is conflicting information on whether General Funds can be used to contribute to Right to Counsel. I am requesting that LPD opine on the opinion from Corporation Counsel, and on the legality of using General Funds for Right to Counsel.

Thank you in advance for your response. Should you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Ragland from my office at yvonne.ragland@detroitmi.gov.

cc: Honorable Colleagues
Steve Watson, Budget Director
Hon. Janice Winfrey, Detroit City Clerk