



**DETROIT CITY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 5
OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
MARY SHEFFIELD**



Statement on Being Elected Council President



First and foremost, I'd like to give honor to God for ordering my steps and giving me the ability and fortitude to walk in my purpose. To my colleagues who so graciously entrusted me with the awesome responsibility of presiding over this body which has the sacred duty of protecting the interest of the residents of our great City, I extend my sincere gratitude for your support. I would like to also thank everyone who took the opportunity to encourage me to pursue the Office of City Council President and offered prayers, their counsel and assistance. It meant the world to hear your expressions of confidence in my ability to lead.

I am humbled to join the ranks of former Council Presidents Sen. Carl Levin, Erma Henderson, Gil Hill, Maryann Mahaffey and more recently Brenda Jones who all have ushered Detroit through some of its darkest and best times. While I recognize that holding this title is truly an honor and something to be proud of, I, more importantly, understand the assignment and responsibilities that come with such an esteemed position. I stand ready to work diligently with my fellow Council Members, our Legislative Policy Division, the Administration and the residents of Detroit to deliver real and tangible quality of life improving results for those we serve. I am also committed to re-establishing the reputation of Council and restoring the faith the Community has in this Body.

This cannot be accomplished alone which is why I recognize the value of working closely with my colleagues and being unified in the execution of our chartered mandated duties. Although there can be only one Council President, just as I preside over District 5 by incorporating the will of people, I will ensure that each individual member has an equal and unfettered voice in the process and business before this body. I pledge to do my part to help foster the decorum, civility and effectiveness that should be the norm with a democratically elected body.

As the New President, I certainly have some ideas on how we can improve upon the manner in which we handle the people's business. For instance, I will seek to:

- Modernize council proceedings and voting through technology
- Increase transparency and sharing of information with the Community
- Enhance the public's ability to attend and participate in Council meetings
- Set weekly agendas in a manner that respects the public's & members' time
- Work to establish better working relationships with other governing bodies
- Develop a collaborative annual legislative agenda
- Prioritize inclusion & equity for Detroiters through City expenditures

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I'm sure my fellow council members also have some ideas and I want to be sure that we cultivate and nurture each and every one of them in an effort to improve the service to the residents of Detroit, I am excited about embarking on this journey with this incredible team of elected officials that the voters in their infinite wisdom had the foresight to assemble. While the challenges are great there has been no more resilient City or people on the planet than Detroit and its residents. So together, we will meet those challenges with ingenuity, hard work, innovation, solidarity and a love for one another and our City.

God Bless you all and may God continue to bless the City of Detroit.

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Council Member Mary Sheffield represents the 5th District, which covers the lower eastside, downtown, the riverfront and central portions of Detroit. She was the chair of the Neighborhood and Community Services standing committee and a member of the Budget Finance and Audit standing committee. She was first elected to office in 2013 and is the youngest person ever elected to City Council in the history of Detroit.

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