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ESSENTIAL
HUMAN RIGHT

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Hydrate Detroit

1935 Chene Court, Suite #1811

Detroit Michigan 48207

Phone: (313) 279-0608

Email: Water4Detroit@gmail.com

Visit our website: www.HydrateDetroit.org



Wednesday July 20, 2022

TO: Detroit Board of Water Commissioners

From: Meeko Williams and Beulah Walker

RE: DWSD Lifeline Plan + Details for Planned Water Summit

Hydrate Detroit wants to acknowledge The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and The Detroit Board of Water Commissioners for finally moving towards efforts in agreement to a solution by helping citizens with their water bills. We also want to recognize the city of Detroit finally coming to an understanding that this situation cannot continue and that something must be done to prevent dangerous water shutoffs from happening again.

Hydrate Detroit has continuously advocated for water affordability, wrote various letters of correspondence and spoken throughout public comments about the need to have a permanent solution to ending water shutoffs once and for all as we know how dangerous water shutoffs can be for any resident of this city.

Hydrate Detroit has been in consultations meetings and sharing ideas with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department and the Water Board Commissioners since the year 2014, by attending every meeting from the formal to sub-committee meetings, through various neighborhood meetings, at city council meetings and any other place we can affect policy changes. Increased dialogue and get people to stand up and speak out about their experiences of water to this leadership.

We are also thankful for the Water Moratorium remaining intact so that we all can work on a plan that can help residents and get citizens the assistance needed for prevention of disconnection or disruption of water service being delivered to the home. People want to avoid having their water shutoff & it's good to hear officials say this but our question is: do you really mean it and what are you willing to do preventing water shutoffs from happening to innocent citizens in the city of Detroit?

Fast forward to 2022 and now there are efforts being made to assist citizens and residents with their water bill. Also, there are efforts underway to obtain funding Detroiters must access immediately to prevent a situation from getting worse before it gets better. We all must be proactive & professional when it comes to this

new opportunity of receiving help. We cannot let this second chance slip away out of our hands

Hydrate Detroit is proposing a city-wide water summit aimed at sharing ideas, solutions and coming up with steps to prevent water shutoffs and to work on various areas so that citizens don't fall through the loopholes of having their water disconnected.

Possible Recommended Dates:

Sometime in Mid-August or Early September before the DWSD Comment Period is up

Saturday would be a Preferred Day as its convenient

Time:

Conference style time block such as

(11:00am to 3:00pm)

(12:00pm to 4:00pm)

(2:00pm to 5:00pm)

Venue Locations:

The Locations must be in a public central area with accessible parking and ADA accommodations

Marygrove College

Considine Recreation Center

Northwest Activities Center

General Baker Institute

The Arc Detroit

Horatio Williams Foundation Center

Judge Greg Mathis Community Center

Nandi's Knowledge Café

St Matthew and St Joseph Episcopal Church

Who should be in Attendance:

Possible Attendees such as Detroit Water and Sewerage Department officials, Great Lakes Water Authority, City of Detroit Mayor, City Council and Officials from Detroit Law Department, Wayne Metropolitan Agency, Reps from THAW, United Way and State of Michigan DHS along with prominent Water Activists groups such as Hydrate Detroit, We The People of Detroit, Peoples Water Board, Michigan Welfare Rights, Moratorium Now, National Action Network, ACLU, Food and Water Watch, Sierra Club, U of M and WSU experts and other community entities, stakeholders and neighborhood block club representatives should be in attendance of this summit. A recommendation should be made that this summit should be closed off to the public and should only contain the groups, organizations and leadership around this issue surrounding water affordability.

- Only to water warriors, experts and those that been around since day one of this crisis
- No outside people or supporters. it must be closed off because we are discussing sensitive information
- This meeting must be in conference format from 12pm to 4pm or a 10am to 5pm timeframe
- With possible breakouts and coming with a general solution that works for all parties involved this fight
- With a one sheet transcript taking record of this meeting that provides a detailed summary of all our demands, policy solutions and actions to be taken
- If we all can designate leaders and people with specific roles to carry and outreach the message of engagement with the public.

The objective of this meetings is to discuss solutions and ways to work together to prevent water shutoffs by the end of the year. This meeting must feature some of the information and details that have been shared over recent weeks and months for discussion on a main point to dissect the problem. Once we established what the problem is, then we should take discussion on how to fix the problem, what are we willing to consider the main topics of points to be worked and how to overcome fixing the problem to turn into solutions.

- The first presentation should be given by DWSD Financial CEO Ishmat Rahman providing an overview of the finances and the arrears that are outstanding. The DWSD budget plan should also be viewed by everyone, and he should walk everyone through the impact of the pandemic, the moratorium, and the conditions that we are currently facing.
- The second presentation should be given by DWSD CEO Gary Brown about the DWSD Lifeline Plan and also present slideshows, and a rundown of the document sent by the Washington D.C. recommendation on water rates and their lifeline plan. It should also include information about Baltimore, Philadelphia, and other water lifeline plans across the country in comparison to DWSD and their lifeline plan.
- The third presentation should be given by DWSD Customer Service CEO Matthew Phillips about the improvements made to customer service and a overview of the new DWSD Customer Service portal.
- The fourth presentation should be given by Wayne Metro for an overview of their programs, services and information related to their details shared a few weeks ago in a separate meeting. It should include all of the information about the assistance programs, their five-year overview and their past accomplishments and achievements. Wayne Metro should also include a slide of their financial information from the past to right now currently with their latest funding models and monies spent.
- The fifth presentation should be given by We The People of Detroit and selected experts to express their position on water and their recommendations to be included in the water lifeline plan.
- There should be a time carved out for a dialogue about how everyone in attendance can pledge to work together in making sure that Detroiters are informed, can sign up for the assistance & discuss ideas and solutions regarding outreach and communications.
- Following the presentations should be a conversation on how we all can work together to achieve the goals and objectives of making sure people have access to affordable water service. This meeting should be productive, it should be enlightening, and it should produce results.
- The final piece should be creating a point of contact for communications of all parties involved.

Materials should be copied for distribution:

- DWSD Budget 2021-2022 and 2022-2023
- DWSD Lifeline Plan Details
- DWSD 5-year Capital Improvement Plan
- Wayne Metro Information
- We the People of Detroit information and handouts
- Hydrate Detroit plan for water affordability
- And any other useful information

Nice refreshments and beverages should be provided as well for accommodations made for people to attend this meeting by Zoom online and conference call accessibility.

Our hopes for the outcome of this meeting are as follows.

- Adopt and advocate for the water amnesty and 10/30/50 program proposal flips to 50% to 70% off arrears of past due water debt to a zero due balance
- Adopt and advocate a worker and plumbers' program for young black Detroiters 16 to 35 to compete for the jobs and contracts of DWSD
- Adopt and advocate for the plan of equity to be given to every homeowner and renter in the city of Detroit by battling slumlords and developing rights to counsel for water issues.
- Adopt and advocate for a permanent funding source to achieve a sustainable water affordability program
- Adopt and advocate a plan for residents to have a clear path of steps to take by preventing water shutoffs and presenting resources to call
- Finding Solutions to secure permanent funding sources to fund the DWSD Lifeline Plan

Hydrate Detroit would like to accommodate by providing hands of help that may be needed to facilitate and make this meeting happen. We would like to work with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department in making this summit happen with the water activists and community so it can bring all of us together for the common good of the main goal: helping Detroiters.

If anyone would like to reach out to me, I can be reached at the contact information above for more information.

Sincerely in best regards,

Demeeko Williams and Beulah Walker

Executive Chief Directors

Hydrate Detroit

Water is an Essential Human Right

Electronically Signed by both parties on Wednesday July 20, 2022