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Council of Baptist  
Pastors of Detroit and  
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# Press Release

## **Detroit Mayor plans to work with the faith-based community to address new drainage fees**

**DETROIT, October x, 2016** - Religious leaders from across Detroit met with Mayor Mike Duggan to discuss an important issue to our community. "Faith-based groups have been vocal in our opposition to the proposal that would bring additional drainage costs to our institutions, and we appreciate Mayor Duggan meeting to discuss the issue," says Reverend Dr. Lawrence C. Glass, President of the Council of Baptist Pastors of Detroit and Vicinity, Inc.

The Mayor has assured us that the new drainage charges will be deferred for the faith-based community and affiliated social services organizations until January, 2018. A committee will be formed with participation of clergy members to develop a dialogue and provide input for the City's plan that minimizes impact on the important services that our organizations provide. Additionally, the Mayor made it clear that effective immediately, the annual charge for faith-based organizations at large will remain the same for now, that no other group will see a rate increase as a result of this deferral, and the City's plan will allow individuals to use approved solutions like retention ponds, vegetation and green projects to further reduce our individual fees.

"On September 29, the Faith Based Community demonstrated how we can address and attack an issue concerning our community, without turning on each other or shooting down our political leaders. Holding each other accountable and dealing with each other respectfully is the way to doing right for the City of Detroit! Together We're Better: Clergy and Community; City and Citizens! By God's Grace, we'll do this more!" says President Glass.

President Glass stated "although the Mayor states that January, 2018 would begin the new rate increase for faith-based organizations, it is my hope and desire that the committee would be developed within the next 30 days and a plan which resolves all concerns no later than June, 2017, in order to give organizations time to adjust to the new rate and apply for credits by January, 2018."

We appreciate the Mayor's clear communication with us and look forward to working with his administration on this issue.

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