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HAMTRAMCK STATE OF THE CITY 2013



Welcome, everyone, and thank you for coming to Hamtramck's 2013 State of the City address. Witam. Mire se vini. Merhaba. Dobro dosli. Laskavo prosimo. Shagatom. Welcome.

Let me start off by recognizing some of the members of the audience who are with us here today: our elected officials, city council members; our state officials; our county officials. Please join me in acknowledging our city staff: Acting City Managr Kyle Tertzag; Police Chief Max Garbarino; Fire Chief Paul Wilk; Department of Public Services Director Steve Shaya;

Community and Economic Development Director Jason Friedmann; Downtown Manager Darren Grow; City Treasurer Mike Wilk; and our Deputy City Clerk, August Gritschlag. Former Assistant City Manager Kathleen Angerer has moved to the position of Assistant to the Emergency Manager. These are the department heads and managers, but under their supervision work many other dedicated individuals who keep things running smoothly, and who deserve our thanks and gratitude. In addition, several long term employees have retired this year, including City Clerk Marie Kendzierski. So will any employees of the city, past or present, please stand.

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## Remembered with Love



Deb and Carl Nevinski

Last year we mourned the passing of a dear friend and dedicated city employee, Deb Nevinski. And recently we were shocked at the loss of her husband, Carl, who also served the city so devotedly, even in retirement. They both made our work in city hall run a little more smoothly and our days pass more pleasantly, and their devotion to and joy in each other was an inspiration and a model of what a loving marriage could be. We feel their loss deeply.

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## Hamtramck Public Schools

I'm pleased to acknowledge our Superintendent of Schools, Mr. Tom Niczay and members of the Hamtramck Board of Education: Ms. Yvonne Myrick, Titus Walters, Hedy Shulgon, Al Shulgon, Erik Burkman, Nasr Hussain, and Magdalena Srodek.

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## Recycling Commission



## Historical Commission



## Downtown Development Authority

I would also like to acknowledge the members of our various boards, commissions, and committees who are here today. If you would please rise as your organization is called: Beautification Commission; Assessor's Board of Review; Downtown Development Authority; Economic Development Corporation; Historical Commission; Housing Commission; Human Relations Commission; Library Board; Plan Commission; Recycling Commission; Zoning Board of Appeals.

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## A Hamtramck Institution



As we enjoy the library's hospitality once again, I'd like to thank Library Director Tamara Sochacka, our volunteer AV whiz Greg Kirchner, and all the library staff.

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## HAMTRAMCK: The Place We Share



This is the eighth time I've addressed you like this, to review what we've been through together in the past year, and to give you an idea of what's ahead for us as a city, as a community. And goodness knows we've been through a lot together. We've worked and we've played; we've struggled and we've celebrated; we've argued with each other, and we've broken bread together. That is what makes Hamtramck more than a collection of houses, or a grid of streets, or, as the lingo from Lansing goes these days, "a provider of services." That is what connects those tightly-packed houses into a community, that joins those narrow streets into neighborhoods, that makes us want to connect with each other and serve our neighbor. That is

what makes this place our home. A home we share, for richer, for poorer, for better and for worse. We are joined to this place, and to each other.

And we've all certainly had our worries about this place in the last year. The story of our financial troubles dominated the public narrative about Hamtramck--it was a story told over and over again, mostly superficially or sensationally. Like many Michigan cities, especially those built on a proud manufacturing history like ours, Hamtramck struggled to balance its budget in the face of a diminished tax base, ever-rising costs, escalating infrastructure needs, and the systematic and purposeful erosion of state funding to local governments. This perfect storm for cities has been discussed and theorized from many perspectives. And "storm" might be a misnomer, because rather than a natural occurrence, this is not unlike the volatile weather caused by global warming--man-made, predictable, and reversible by responsible public policy aggressively enacted at the highest levels. This has not happened, despite fine words from our state leaders. And so we are likely to see more local governments sinking, clinging to the slippery lifeline of emergency management, which can choke as readily as it rescues. We should know this better than most. On July 1, Cathy Square was appointed Hamtramck's Emergency Manager. Her 45-day report is due later this month. What the report will say or what it will propose for Hamtramck going forward I cannot say.

But I do know another narrative about Hamtramck.

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## OUR Story: Employees



It's a story told in the hard work of our employees under most difficult circumstances.

## OUR Story: Service



It's a story told in the careful consideration of issues and the organization of projects by our city commissions, committees, and volunteers.

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## OUR Story: Small Business



It's a story told by the long hours put in by our business owners who make our city a fun place to shop, enjoy a meal or a drink, and get things done.

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## OUR Story: Our Lives



It's a story told by the daily efforts of our residents and neighbors to make our city more beautiful, more welcoming, more viable, and more alive. This is the story that WE write about our city and our lives here. We are the characters (and sometimes I DO mean characters!), and we are the creators.

So let me tell the story here of some of the work that's been going on in Hamtramck city hall, beginning with our Police Department.

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## Hamtramck Police Department and Police Reserves



## Angels Night 2012



## Outreach to Immigrants

The significance of this department to Hamtramck's security is understood by everyone in our city. Although high-profile crimes occasionally make the news, like last week's attempted robbery at a Jos. Campau jewelry shop, statistics show that our crime rate has gone down, even in these trying times. The department is becoming more streamlined and efficient, as evidenced by the long-overdue reorganization of the property and evidence room. Partnerships have been cultivated with the Drug Enforcement Administration, the FBI, and the U.S. Marshals Service on task forces that pay substantial dividends in fighting crime. The priority given to community policing has meant increased community patrols, new and revitalized block clubs, and a doubling of our Police Reserve Core. The department has

looked for proactive ways to address specific problem areas in an effort to defuse likely hot spots.

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Equally close to Hamtramck's heart is its fire department.

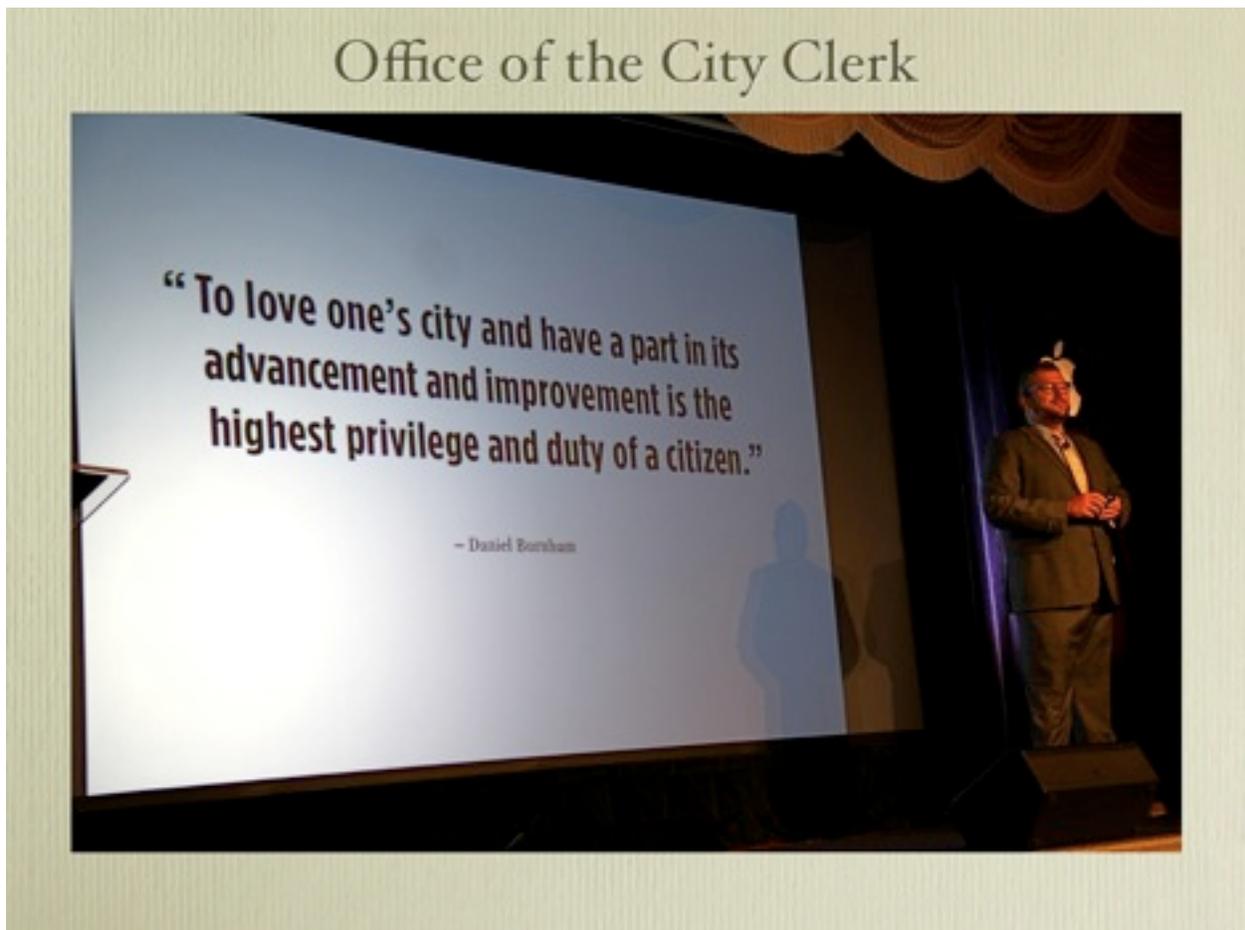


In October 2012 the City of Hamtramck's application for a SAFER Grant "Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response" through the Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency was successful. The grant reimburses the total cost of 12 fire fighters through October 2014. Additionally, the department is continuing to enhance its professional status with advanced training through the Michigan Fire Fighters Training Council.

In February of this year, with the department's two ambulances unreliable and in need of repair, a private ambulance was contracted to handle EMS service at no charge to the city. The city and the fire department share a common commitment to the safety of our residents, and a deep sense of community involvement, as further evidenced by the many projects the department takes part in every year, including fundraising for the Goodfellows, cleaning up Veterans Memorial Park, and watering the plants on Jos. Campau. In addition, the department takes seriously its obligation to the next generation, giving many school tours of the fire station, presenting at career day at local schools, and allowing high school students to shadow fire fighters as part of their Senior Year Project.

Our police and fire fighters not only keep us safe, but they are strong threads binding and stabilizing our community.

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There have been many changes in the City Clerk's Department over the last month. To increase efficiency and opportunities for cross-training, the clerk's office recently moved and now shares office space with the Treasury Department. Since the clerk's retirement, August Gritschlag has joined us as Deputy City Clerk. Augie brings with him extensive election administration experience, so the August 6<sup>th</sup> primary election is on track and the department is moving forward rapidly.

New printers have modernized the city's ability to provide AV ballots at the window. Officials from the Secretary of States office have reviewed the department's processes and brought it up to speed on all the most recent changes and updates. You will see modernized signage, postings and a handful of new processes for the November general election, just in time for next year's gubernatorial election cycle.

In addition, in recent weeks the clerk's office has made significant progress in issuing business licenses. Brainstorming with Acting City Manager Tertzag have produced excellent ideas on how to make this process more efficient in the future. The key element here is training, and the department is learning how to use the systems we have in place more efficiently every day.

The department has also begun working with the city manager's office on a city wide record retention project. The clerk's office is responsible for a significant number of paper records. In the past, those records have often been scattered and difficult or impossible to locate. We are now deeply engaged in a major effort to ensure that important documents are protected and accessible.

Although the clerk's office now operates on a part-time basis, personnel are staying late and working extra hours to modernize and professionalize. The result will be more efficiency and effectiveness and better service in the Clerk's Department.

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## Department of Public Services



The Department of Public Services under Director Steve Shaya has had a busy year increasing efficiency and revenues through shifts in personnel, revised procedures, and rewritten ordinances.

The department has begun to implement its Capital Improvement Plan, including the installation of non-motorized routes and the replacement of hazardous sidewalks, which have resulted in many trip and fall lawsuits against the city over the years. After the initial roll out of the sidewalk program resulted in serious questions about tree removal, the city stepped back to revise and refine the program, as well as to ensure that removed trees will be replaced with species that are appropriate and safe for a close urban environment.

In another piece of the Capital Improvement Plan, DPS is in the process of conducting Pavement Surface and Evaluation Ratings (PASER) on our streets. This will determine which four streets are prioritized for the next

round of resurfacing. Of particular concern for many years has been Conant Avenue, a county road, and we are renewing efforts to move this road from number 40-something to the top of the county's list.

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Along with the immediate issue of repairing our streets, we face the decades old problem of our outdated sewer system and the resulting basement flooding that has plagued this city since at least the 1950s. Just a couple of years ago this ongoing problem cost each one of you hundreds of dollars in a class action lawsuit brought against the city by a group of your neighbors. It's imperative that the city address this costly problem at long last. Toward that end, the City of Hamtramck and Hennessey Engineers was awarded a one million dollar grant to perform a sewer study that will help us strategize for and seek funding to implement a phased solution.

You may also have noticed that DTE and MichCon are completing the final phase of gas main and service line replacement. This process has been disruptive for many of you, so I know we're all happy to see those holes in the ground filled in and the sidewalks and streets repaired properly and professionally.

DPS continues to look for ways to become more efficient and bring in the revenue that's owed the city. In May, a month-long amnesty program gave residents the opportunity to pay up old water bills without penalty. As that offer drew to a close, the department has instituted much stricter water bill collection and enforcement policies, which should not only mean that the city is not funding the water use of residents and businesses with no hope of reimbursement, but also that water customers are incentivized to pay their bills before they become insurmountable. On the same cost-savings note, the installation of high performance lighting on Jos. Campau and Caniff has resulted in a savings of approximately \$20,000 per year.

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## Addressing Blight

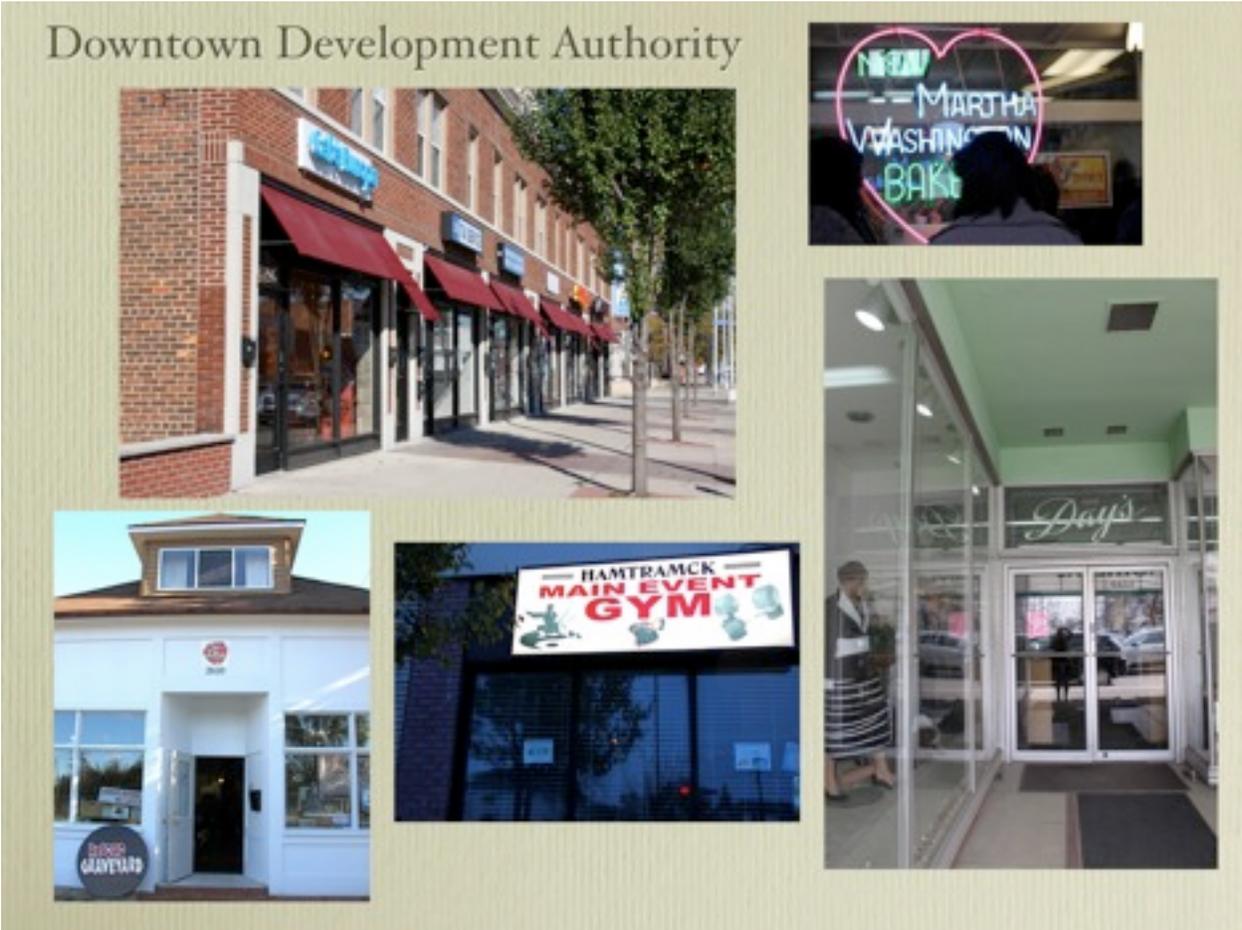


Now there's one more DPS issue I want to touch on. If you're like me, you've been watching the weeds grow over your own head on city owned lots and some foreclosure properties. There is currently no money authorized by the Emergency Manager to be spent on cutting city lots. I hope that situation will change. The Acting City Manager, DPS Director and staff, and Assistant to the Emergency Manager are currently working together to try to come up with the best strategy to make sure that the abandoned or foreclosure properties are maintained. That could mean cutting the weeds ourselves (which expenditure only the EM can approve) and charging back the owner, whether it be an individual, a bank, or Wayne County. However, it's only very rarely that we would realize a reimbursement of that expense, especially as liens are removed in the second round of tax foreclosure auctions. Tickets could be issued after a fair warning period, but as owners walk away from the property, they walk away from their financial obligations as well, and that doesn't get the weeds cut. Look for the outcome of these discussions from the Department of

Public Services and the City Manager’s office. The sooner the better. The health of a city is measured by more than its balance sheet. Part of the long-term strategy for Hamtramck’s economic recovery must include decisions that bolster the quality of life in our neighborhoods.

The quality of our downtown is the responsibility of the Downtown Development Authority.

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The DDA continues to administer the Hamtramck Façade Grant Program., funded through Community Development Block Grant dollars allocated by the Community and Economic Development Department and approved by council. In the last year local business and property owners received \$70,500 for architectural design services, and \$45,000 has been set aside for construction services to restore their facades to their original condition. Flavor Restaurant, Bromberg Translations, and the building at 2321 Caniff

were the recipients of the grants over the past year. Another \$52,500 has been earmarked for design and construction of new facades at Jomir Grocery, Café 1923, and Deganah Investment, LLC.

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The DDA, in conjunction with the city's Community and Economic Development department, has also initiated a city wide sign grant. The sign grant is also funded via Community Development Block Grant dollars. The grant allows for CDBG money to be used for 75% of sign costs up to \$1450, with the grantee matching the final 25%. The grant also provides up to \$200 for sign design and drawing costs. Sign grants have been allocated for Halal Live Chicken, Rock City Pies, and Sticks Strings & Other Things. Sticks Strings & Other Things, a music equipment and lesson storefront on Florian Street near Jos. Campau is the city's first HOME funded Second Story Rehab Fund applicant and recently had plans

approved by the city and the State Historic Preservation Office for renovation of two apartments above the storefront.

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The DDA teamed with the Beautification Commission, the Hamtramck Fire Department, Reverend Sharon Buttry and assistant city manager Kathleen Angerer to provide and plant 100 bags of cedar chips, 172 hostas, and 4 flats of petunias in the planter boxes along Jos. Campau, around City Hall, and at all Hamtramck welcome signs. The DDA provided the funding and some limited manpower. The Beautification Commission, Hamtramck resident volunteers, Kathleen Angerer, and the Detroit Chinese Christian & Missionary Alliance Church Youth Group through Reverend Buttry, did all the planting. Ms. Angerer negotiated an outstanding price for all materials and the fire department continues to water the new plants.

In conjunction with the planting, the DDA has also paid for weeding and cleaning of the tree grates along Jos. Campau side streets as well as the parking lot behind the former Shopper's World. Due to funding issues, the DDA is planning to work with the Beautification Commission and volunteers to maintain those areas. This month, there are also plans to supplement the planter boxes and flower gardens throughout the city with plants and labor donated by local residents, the DDA board, and the Beautification Commission.

If you enjoy the holiday lights on the street poles along Jos. Campau every year, you have the DDA to thank. The DDA also pays for the repair of most of the damaged light poles and GFIs, working with the city to replace all missing or damaged lights and poles along Jos. Campau.

In conjunction with the Community and Economic Development Department, the DDA hosts quarterly Merchant's Meetings for the city's business and property owners. The events take place at and/or are catered by local Hamtramck establishments. Recent hosts have included Aladdin Sweets and Café, People's Community Center, The Detroit Zen Center, Planet Ant Theatre, and Courage Coffee. Additional catering has been provided by Srodek's Quality Sausage, Bosnian Specialties, and Sarah's Turkish Specialties. The events help bring customers to local Hamtramck businesses and each meeting features presentations on valuable services to small business and property owners. Merchant meetings are provided at no cost to the attendees and attendance and participation is always growing.

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## Valuing our Traditional Downtown



For the last several years the DDA has participated in the Michigan Main Street program at the associate level and will apply this year for acceptance into the Main Street Select Level. The Main Street program was developed by the National Trust for Historic Preservation as a four point approach to revitalize historic downtowns through historic preservation and grass root economic development. As a member of the Main Street Select level Downtown Hamtramck will be entitled to thousands of dollars in training, consultation, and design services provided by MSHDA, the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. These services will be provided at no cost to the city, our tax payers, or the DDA.

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## Helping Bring Us Together



The DDA continues to be integral to the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival. The DDA has provided liquor and raffle licenses for the festival for the past four years. While the DDA has not been the hosting entity of the festival since 2011, Executive Director Darren Grow continues to sit on the Labor Day Festival Committee and assisted in making the 2012 festival a financial success.

The DDA partnered with SEEDS marketing firm and the Hamtramck School Board in 2011 to create a branding program for downtown, the school district and eventually, it is hoped, the entire city. In August of 2011 the DDA purchased 20 banners for the light poles with the new branding slogan "Hamtown, You Fit in Here." The slogan is meant to emphasize our diversity and to encourage everyone to feel at home here in Hamtramck. As an extension of the program the DDA now offers business owners the opportunity to purchase banners with the slogan and their business photo and/or logo. In the past year Krot Law Firm, Amicci's Pizza, Record

Graveyard, Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home and the Polish Art Center have all become sponsors.

Often working in cooperation with the DDA is the Department of Community and Economic Development.

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Among all the other work the CED Department is responsible for, it has played a historic role in bringing to a close the nation's longest-running housing discrimination lawsuit, Sarah Garret vs. the City of Hamtramck, known to most of us as R-31. We are seeing the last days of this over 40-year-old case. The CED Department is wrapping up the administration of the city's approximately \$18 million Neighborhood Stabilization Grant (NSP 2), the largest grant the city has ever received. These funds have helped us meet many of the settlement requirements, allowing us to build or

rehabilitate fifty-two homes, in addition to those completed in the last few years. In addition, this grant has allowed us to remove over 100 dangerous blighted structures. Sixteen of the remaining 19 homes (out of an original 200) that are to be built and offered to plaintiffs are now either under construction or under contract, thanks to a \$3.2 million US Department of Housing & Urban Development HOME fund award through Wayne County. The remaining three homes will be developed by the city in cooperation with Rev. Jordan and the Corinthian Community Development Corporation utilizing funds from the city's Housing Development Fund (HDF). They should be completed this year. These homes have brought new homeowners to our city, helped transform our neighborhoods, and most importantly helped right a historic wrong.

The Honorable Damon Keith, who has presided over this case from its beginning, has been so encouraged by the city's progress that he has signed an order allowing the city to sell city owned residential property. Since the early lifting of this long-standing prohibition the CED Department has been working with Zachary & Associates, a midtown Detroit real estate development expert, to create a strategy for redeveloping these properties. This comprehensive plan will include provisions for setting aside property for neighborhood green space, pocket parks, urban gardens, and farms, as well as for selling and developing lots with new housing. The city owns approximately 400 total residential parcels, and each lot has the opportunity to generate up to \$3,000.00 a year in taxes for the city's general fund.

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# Battling Blight



The CED Department is also working hard to eliminate blight in city neighborhoods. \$300,000 in Neighborhood Stabilization Program (NSP 3) funds through Wayne County are being used to deconstruct six dangerous blighted structures. In the deconstruction process, original construction and decorative materials like wood floors and fixtures are salvaged for reuse. Two of the deconstruction projects will result in the creation of a green space/park along Carpenter Street, across from Frontier Academy (the Former Greater Detroit Hospital).

The CED Department just wrapped up the administration of two USEPA Brownfield Assessment Grants totaling \$400k. Funds were used to position, and market Hamtramck properties for redevelopment. Over 40 Phase I, Phase II site assessments, as well as Baseline Environmental Assessments, Due Care Plans, and lead and asbestos surveys we completed promoting residential, commercial, and industrial property

throughout the city. The CED Department also applied for and received a \$1M Revolving Loan Fund (RLF) grant, as seed money to create a fund to assess and clean up any environmental issues that could provide challenges to redevelopment throughout the city.

The city received \$300,000 from the Michigan State Housing Development Authority to renovate space and attract more residents to the city's commercial areas. CDBG – The CED Department is administering several CDBG projects including façade improvements, housing rehabilitation, park improvements, code enforcement, as well as creation of a new business startup and expansion grant program that already has a waiting list of applicants. In addition, this year the city will make its final HUD Section 108 Loan payment for the Joseph Campau streetscape project, freeing up \$80k to be spent on other projects benefiting the city moving forward.

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## Past Meets Future at Veterans Park



Historic  
Hamtramck  
Stadium  
Grandstands

New Cricket Pitch

The CED Department and City Manager's Office are working together to make dramatic improvements to Veterans Park throughout the summer. General Motors and Hamtramck High School interns are repairing tennis courts, removing graffiti and painting buildings throughout the park, weeding and removing brush, and relocating and refurbishing the neglected playground equipment to create a playscape that is much more visible and accessible to families. Many volunteers including the Hamtramck Fire Department and members of the businesses community are working to improve the park by completing projects ranging from removing litter and weeds, to using heavy machinery to move the playground equipment.

One long awaited improvement is the addition of a cricket pitch which will add greatly to the diversity of sport facilities offered throughout the city. The CED Department has also submitted a grant application to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR) Trust Fund with the goal of improving infrastructure throughout the park, as well as restoring the historic Negro League baseball stadium grandstand, which was recently added to the national Register of Historic Places.

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For many years now the city has been working to enhance its bike-ability and connect Hamtramck with the growing network of bike paths in the region. The CED Department contracted with Living Lab Detroit, one of the county's most respected non-motorized transit consultants, to develop a comprehensive bike lane network for the city. The Department expects to receive funding to install the entire network in spring 2014.

This effort goes hand in hand with the proliferation of community gardens that have sprouted all over our city, with our Hamtramck Farmer's Market held every Monday in Pope Park which features hyper-local produce (that is, harvested that very afternoon), crafts, and cottage foods. It has also opened the door for entrepreneurs like the founders of Hammer & Cycle, which reconditions and sells used bikes.

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### A Home for Art and Artists



The CED Department has been working with Meagan Elliot, a University of Michigan School of Sociology PhD student through the university's Arts of Citizenship program, to reestablish the city's Arts & Culture Commission and implement many of the recommendations presented in the city's new master plan. Several projects have been initiated and range from planning a Hamtramck Food Week, which celebrates the city's diversity and amazing number of markets and food related industries, working with artists to plan the Neighborhood Arts Festival, and reviewing the city's zoning ordinance in order to recommend changes.

Among the most exciting art projects this year is Hamtramck's participation in the Detroit Institute of Arts Inside/Out program, which brings high quality reproductions of renowned works of art to public spaces. Hamtramck is

host to several of these installations, outside the Polonia Restaurant, Cafe 1923, Polish Market, and City Hall, among other places.

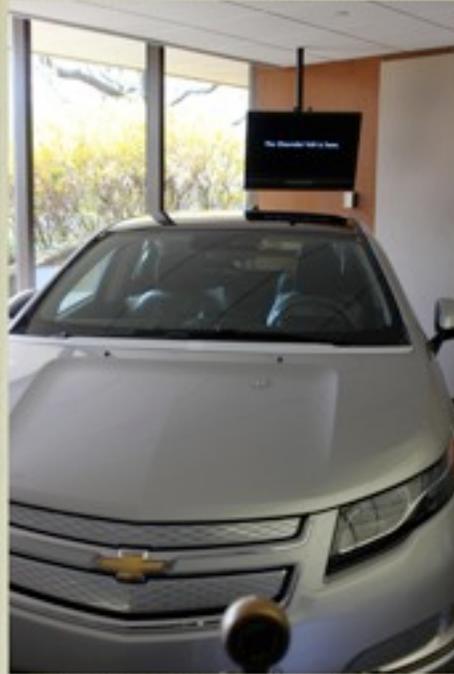
The HATCH Hamtramck art collective headquarters located in the City's former police department headquarters is now fully operational. The CED Department administered Community Development Block Grant funds to renovate the building with a new membrane roof, electrical, plumbing, and carpentry. HATCH recently installed a new heating ventilation and cooling (HVAC) system that was partially paid with CBDG funds and partially crowd funded through Kickstarter, an online fundraising forum. The gallery features frequent exhibits, and the individual artist studios are 100% occupied. Interior improvements are ongoing, with plans for a pottery studio, photography dark room, and retail space. One room remains unchanged, however: one of the former jail cells, complete with historic graffiti and all the comforts of home.

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## New GM Investment



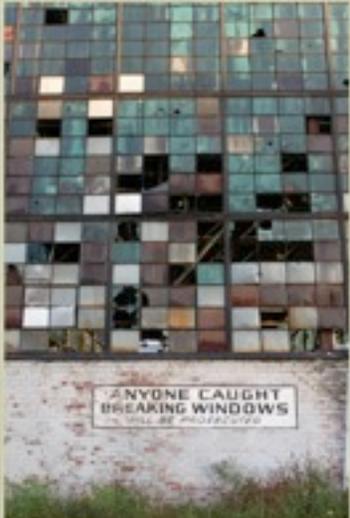
## More Changes at American Axle



Hamtramck's business climate is also a priority for the Community and Economic Development Department. General Motors met with the city to discuss a \$20 million investment/expansion project. In addition to the innovative Chevy Volt, GM has announced that the new electric-hybrid Cadillac will also be built at the Hamtramck/Detroit Assembly Plant.

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## Hamtramck Recycling



Hamtramck Recycling LLC completed the demolition of a dangerous, blighted, and contaminated steel plant, to build Hamtramck's first LEED Certified, environmentally efficient commercial recycling plant. The approximately \$8M investment has resulted in 50 new jobs for the city.

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## New Businesses Make Hamtramck Home



The fire damaged Hamtramck Creamery has seen \$650,000 in redevelopment as the new home for the Hamtramck PharMor Pharmacy and Medical Center has resulted in 20 new jobs. The CED Department worked with two doctors to redevelop the 43-unit Phoenix apartment building located on Caniff just west of Conant. Many thought the 30k square foot building would need to be demolished after sitting vacant with fire damage and major roof leaks for almost 4 years, but the finished product is a beautiful example of both preservation of a historic asset, as well as providing modern, efficient units at an affordable price.

Several businesses are filling storefronts, or will be soon, throughout the city: Perkin's Pickles, Maria's Salsa's new production facility on Caniff, Mocha Cafe, the Conant Grocery Store (at Edwin), Green House Market, Kabob House, Hamtramck Caniff Coney Island, El George's, Rock City Café, Cup Cak'n, Flavor Restaurant, Beignets and More, Hammer & Cycle,

and more. Despite some lingering empty storefronts, the atmosphere and appetite for small business in Hamtramck is strong, and growing stronger.

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In fact, the city was the co-sponsor of the first 8-week Hamtramck BUILD Class which trained 15 potential business owners in skills from business plan creation to financing and marketing, based on D:hive's nationally recognized curriculum. The first cohort plans to open a variety of businesses ranging from restaurants to graphic design firms. On a related note, H-Pop brought popup small businesses and art installations as well as outdoor entertainment to Jos. Campau for several days this spring.

The CED worked with City Council to pass a new food truck ordinance allowing these mobile vendors to operate in the city's commercial area. Many reports project the food truck industry to grow by 300% over the next

two years and Hamtramck is one of the few communities to recognize this opportunity by allowing the trucks to add to the city's already exciting street scene by operating at almost any time, not just at organized events as in many other cities.

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Coming in 2013  
The Hamtramck  
Historical Museum

Official City 'Archives'

1950

And now for some fantastic news on a project we've been working on since 2006. The Friends of Historical Hamtramck have finalized the acquisition of the building located at 9525 Joseph Campau, which was donated to the group for use as the new Hamtramck Historical Museum. The group is planning a soft opening in time for the 2013 Hamtramck Labor Day Festival, as renovations continue. I can't praise highly enough the hard work of the Historical Commission and Friends of Historical Hamtramck as

they've overcome every setback to put the myriad pieces in place that have made this possible. The museum will soon become a new Hamtramck landmark: a home for the many thousands of documents and artifacts the Commission has collected over the years and a research center for the scholars and laypeople who will use them, a meeting place for the entire community to learn about and teach each other, a home base where individual visitors, student groups, and our many tour groups will get a deeper perspective on the Hamtramck story past and present. It will be a point of pride for Hamtramckans wherever their lives may have taken them. And it is not just a depository for the remnants of Hamtramck's past. It is a physical symbol of the faith we all have in Hamtramck's future.

The Friends of Historical Hamtramck also owns the PLAV Post 1 on Holbrook. The Community and Economic Development Department has been working with the Friends of Historical Hamtramck to sell this building, with all proceeds to be invested in the new museum site in accordance with the requirements of the grant that was used to purchase the Post. The sale is nearly complete and the new owner, a well-known architect, plans to move his office.

If you'd like to learn more about what the Community and Economic Development Department is doing, please visit [www.develophamtramck.com](http://www.develophamtramck.com), its website designed with federal grant funds to market development opportunities and tourism in Hamtramck. The site lists available properties, development incentives, and information on businesses, arts and cultural opportunities and dining options.

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## Hamtramck: Our Place in the World



Today you've heard only a part of all the good things that are going on in Hamtramck. There is so much we haven't been able to touch on in this short time. And there is so much that we don't know going forward. Most importantly, we don't know what decisions the Emergency Manager will make and how they will change our city. Nothing lives without change. But what is left to us is to be, within our powers, the crafters of that change. We change our world every day through our smallest actions and inactions. And that personal power to transform our community remains within us, in our homes and on our streets, in our families and in our neighborhoods. It is what we are called upon to do, as lovers and stewards of this little plot of earth we share. Because, when the Emergency Manager is long gone, we will still be here, in this improbable little place we've all chosen to call home. This place that has called to us all.

We are  
Neighbors, Family,  
and Friends



It is how we choose to act, how and how we choose to move forward together, that determines the future of this odd and dear city.

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## We are Multigenerational



Nothing live without without change, everything living grows and evolves. And Hamtramck needs all of us to to guide that change, to move the city through difficult times toward the future we all want here for ourselve and those who come after us.

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Pope John Paul II, soon to be Saint Karol Wojtyla, admonished us all, “be not afraid.” And we need to move bravely through the year ahead, as Hamtramckans have always done, bolstered by our shared committment to our city and each other.

We are Bound to Each Other  
and to this Place



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## Bound to this Place



It is, after all, why we all choose to be here.

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# We are Hamtramck



We are not afraid of the hard work ahead of us, because we are, after all, Hamtramck. We've all seen hard times, and woken up each morning to face the next day.

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We are  
Hamtramck



At our best, we've sustained our neighbors with human kindness.

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We've carried each other.

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We are Hamtramck



and tried to build a Hamtramck that can promise a hopeful future for the generations that will inherit our handiwork.

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# We are Hamtramck



The work we have now ahead of us is among the most challenging, and most exciting, the city has ever faced. We need to stick together.

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We are  
Hamtramck



But let's not forget the joy we take in each other.

SLIDE 43

We are  
Hamtramck



And proudly be who we are.

SLIDE 44

We are  
Hamtramck



Kind, committed, hard working, and joyful in the days ahead

SLIDE 45

We are  
Hamtramck



Cheering each other on

SLIDE 46



We are  
Hamtramck



Holding each other steady

SLIDE 47

We are  
Hamtramck



Creating and recreating our community

SLIDE 48

# We are all Hamtramck



Elected officials, department heads, union members, organizational leaders, community volunteers, young, old, newcomer, longtime resident...The city is you. And the city needs you, and your neighbors. It needs your hard work, your patience, your imagination, and your good will. And it is those qualities, far more than a budget surplus, that create and sustain community.

SLIDE 49

# HAMTRAMCK



I thank you all for coming today, for showing your commitment to this dear place. I wish you and your families every good thing, and I hope that being here in Hamtramck is one of those blessings.

## We are Multigenerational



We are Bound to Each Other  
and to this Place

