

CITY OF DETROIT

# COUNCILMAN SCOTT BENSON'S NEWSLETTER



S P R I N G • S U M M E R 2 0 1 8

## Letter from the Councilman

### My Dear Detroiters,

Thank you for the strong show of support with your vote. I appreciate your confidence in allowing me to work for you for another four years. As we head into the spring season it's time to start preparing our homes, gardens and neighborhoods for new growth and rejuvenation. In anticipation of more outdoor activities, it's a good time to mark your calendars for a number of 3rd District activities which are listed below:

1. April 25 – Annual Senior Detroit Zoo Day Celebration,  
9am – 3pm, call for pick-up locations
2. June 9th – Marshmallow Drop – Heilmann Recreation Center,  
19601 Crusade St, Detroit – noon – 3pm

Speaking of renewal, it is important to me that I continue to fight to improve the quality of life for 3rd District and City of Detroit residents. That means continuing to increase job opportunities and improve public safety. Most importantly, during this term, I am going to focus my legislative attentions on reducing poverty in the City of Detroit and creating a City of Opportunity for all. My new 50:40 poverty reduction strategy will work to cut poverty in half by the year 2040. Please take the opportunity to learn more about these poverty elimination efforts.

As we continue to work together, I welcome your feedback on how to improve services and better work on your behalf. Therefore, please sign-up for our new text service to receive time sensitive information about home repair grants, events, emergency services, free giveaways and fun City activities. It's easy and instructions are inside this newsletter.

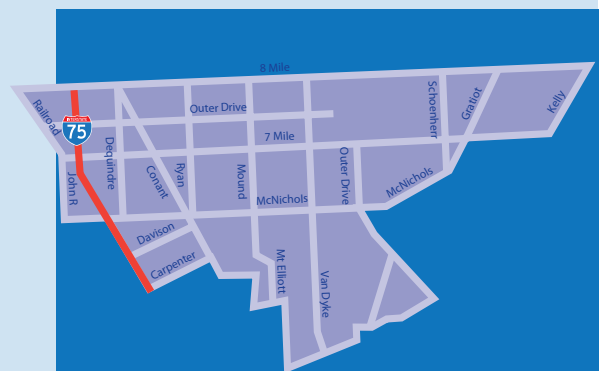
Yours in service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Scott R. Benson".

Scott R. Benson  
3rd District City Councilman



***"My mission is to enhance the  
quality of life in District 3."***



**City of Detroit  
DISTRICT 3**



# Goat Yoga, Planting Days, Free Produce & More at Pingree Farms



Pingree Farms, situated on the southwest corner of I-75 and 7 Mile Road, is a non-profit maintaining 15 acres of urban gardens, running 4-H clubs for both Wayne and Oakland County participants, and educational partnerships with Detroit middle schools. One of the things that frequently surprises visitors is not just the gardens, but the animals. Pingree has miniature cows, pigs, goats, sheep, rabbits, turkeys, chickens, and bees.

Each spring, 250 volunteers or more help plant thousands of seedlings. In 2015 more than 15,000 plants were planted! The resulting gardens, full of vegetables, are open to the public and all the produce is free for the taking.

Now Pingree Farms has “goat yoga” where certified yoga instructors blend movements and gentle stretches with the playful antics of live kid goats. Goat yoga is offered on Saturdays through

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“The ultimate goal  
of farming is not the  
growing of crops, but the  
cultivation and perfection  
of human beings.”  
- Masanobu Fukuoka.  
Na-a-ama-a-aste!

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June. Try the “downward goat” or “stretching kid” poses. You don’t want to miss this unscripted one-of-a-kind experience. All you need is your mat, a sense of adventure, and a water bottle – the rest is provided.

Pingree farms began as a way to rehabilitate a Detroit neighborhood at 7-mile and I-75. Milton Manufacturing has operated in this neighborhood for 70 years, and for the last 50 years, has been owned and operated by two

generations of the Green family. In 2010, Jim and Shelly Green began purchasing lots, tearing down burnt-out and abandoned houses, and replacing them with rows of cover crops.

The Farm Manager, Holly Glomski, is also a certified Agriscience Educator. She facilitates our partnerships with Detroit area middle schools and teaches students onsite as part of our classroom-on-the-farm programs. She also contributes to our 4-H programs, teaching animal husbandry and more. At Pingree, we like to say that urban agriculture is not going to save Detroit, but the people that are inspired by it and educated from it will.

*Join the annual planting days on May 19th and June 2nd, 8 am to 12 pm. Come on down dressed to get in the dirt and join a hundred or so other volunteers to help us plant some seedlings Learn more at [www.pingreefarms.org](http://www.pingreefarms.org) or call 313-564-1500.*

## More Info On Goat Yoga:

**WHERE:** Goat yoga is held in the “Empire Building” located at 18639 Omira St. Detroit, MI 48203, located on the corner of Omira and E. Goldengate, just south of Pingree Farms.

**WHEN:** Saturdays, April 14, 21, 28, May 5, 12, 19, June 9, 16, 23, 30.

Classes are scheduled at 10am, 11:30am, 1:00pm, 2:30pm. On some days classes are added at 8:30 and 4:00 pm to meet demand, if needed.

**COST:** \$27.50 (Proceeds go to support Pingree Farms Foundation)

**REGISTER:** Online at [www.pingreefarms.org](http://www.pingreefarms.org) or call Holly at 313-564-1500.

**THINGS TO KNOW:** You must be at least 14 years old to participate. Classes take place in a barn-like setting with straw and live goats. Dress comfortably and in clothes that are suitable for yoga yet allow you to interact with goats and you don’t mind getting straw on. Space is limited and on a “first come, first serve” basis.

# The Free Senior Wheelchair Ramp Program

## EXPANDS CITY-WIDE

Councilman Benson's successful free ramp program for homebound seniors has now been extended city-wide. Last year, the Councilman's office, working with Dan Villarreal of Areli Detroit, a local construction company, built the first ramp for 3rd District resident Ms. Johnnie Que Foster, who had been confined to her home for over a year.

"Our office received a phone call from a constituent who had been housebound for some time and we began researching the problem for over six months with no solution," says Carol Banks, chief of staff for Councilman Benson, who leads the senior ramp program. "During an event in Osborn we met Dan Villarreal who stated he wanted to give back to Detroit and asked how can he help. We mentioned our issue with the homebound seniors in need of ramps," says Banks. Villarreal's own father had a similar issue when he became ill so Dan knew the depth of the problem and was excited to help, Banks says. The team at Areli Detroit



began working on the ramp and it was ultimately built at the home in one day at no cost. Family, church members and the media were present to see Ms. Foster leave her home after so long indoors. "Ms. Foster stated this is the

happiest day of my life, my daughter can take me to church," Banks recalls. "Now we are committed to building more ramps and improving the quality of life of more seniors throughout the city of Detroit," Banks said.

The expanded program will provide free wheelchair ramps for fourteen homebound senior citizens. If a wheelchair ramp would change your life, contact the program.

- You will need to fill out the required application from Councilman Benson's office.
- You will need a prescription from your doctor indicating your need.
- You will need a copy of your deed to prove homeownership.
- You will need a home visit from Councilman Scott Benson's office.

Contact Councilman Scott Benson's office to apply and for more information. Carol Banks, District Office (313) 530-0587 / Downtown Office (313) 224-1198



### Going Green!: Local Residents to Be Honored at Earth Day Celebration

The Detroit City Council Green Task Force will host its 2nd Annual Earth Day Awards Celebration on Saturday, April 21 at 10:00 am at IBEW Local 58 located at 1358 Abbott Street, Detroit, MI 48226. A buffet breakfast will be served. Guy Williams from Detroit Workers for Environmental Justice as our guest speaker with Cliff Woodard II will serve as the Master of Ceremony.

The awards recognize local businesses and residents from each city council district who are bold thinkers and

innovative leaders in changing the green landscape of Detroit. Awardees include local Detroiters actively involved in community gardening, recycling, sustainable living initiatives and businesses that are bringing energy efficient solutions to buildings and neighborhoods in Detroit.

"We are honored to host our annual event at IBEW Local 58, which is the largest net zero building in the Midwest," says Kerwin Wimberley, Director of the Green Task Force. Net zero means that the total amount of energy used by the building is equal to the alternative energy created on site by its solar panels, rather than using electricity from DTE Energy.

"I am proud to recognize the hard work and efforts of our local residents, youth and businesses in our sustainable community who are working creatively and collectively to make Detroit the greenest

city in the country," says Councilman Benson, who is chair of the City Council's Green Task Force.

There will be an awardee from each district in Detroit. The 3rd District awardee is Virginia Spalding. The areas of sustainability are: water, renewable energy, climate control, recycling, composting and beautification.

*Earth Day was created out of a mass demonstration in 1970 to fight industry pollution, toxic dumping pesticides and the many actions that negatively impact the environment. Via the Green Task Force, Detroit has been making great strides in becoming more "green" including offering free recycling bins and increasing the citywide recycling rate from 4% to 24%.*



## Optional Curbside Recycling Program

The City of Detroit will now offer curbside recycling for all residents **who request** the service.

### UNACCEPTABLE ITEMS

- Paper Milk and Juice Cartons
- Plastic Bags
- Styrofoam Containers and Packaging
- Juice Boxes
- Garbage
- Propane Tanks
- Paint Cans
- Medical Waste
- Flammable Liquids
- Household Cleaners
- Chemicals (Dry or Liquid)
- Wood Items
- Yard Waste: Wood or Trash
- Batteries and Light Bulbs

#### PAPER

- Newspaper • Magazines and Catalogs
- Junk Mail • Office Paper
- Telephone Books

#### BOXES

- Flattened Cardboard Boxes
- Cereal Boxes • Shoe Boxes
- Paper Towel Rolls • Tissue Boxes

#### PLASTICS #1-7

- Jugs, Tubs and Bottles
- Large Plastic Items

#### METALS

- Tin, Steel & Aluminum Food and Beverage Cans • Aluminum Foil
- Pie Plates • Pots and Pans

#### GLASS

- Bottles and Jars
- Clear and colored glass



## Collection

EIGHT MILE RD

**The recycling program** is a single-stream program – all materials go together in your container

- Make sure items are clean and dry
- Containers should be empty
- Rinse food residue
- Please DO NOT put recyclable items in plastic bags – place items directly in your container!
- DO NOT put food or garbage in your container
- Be sure plastics have chasing arrows symbol



- Break down boxes to save space in your container

# 2017-18

### DECEMBER

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### APRIL

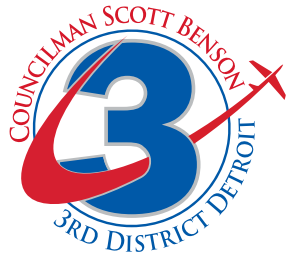
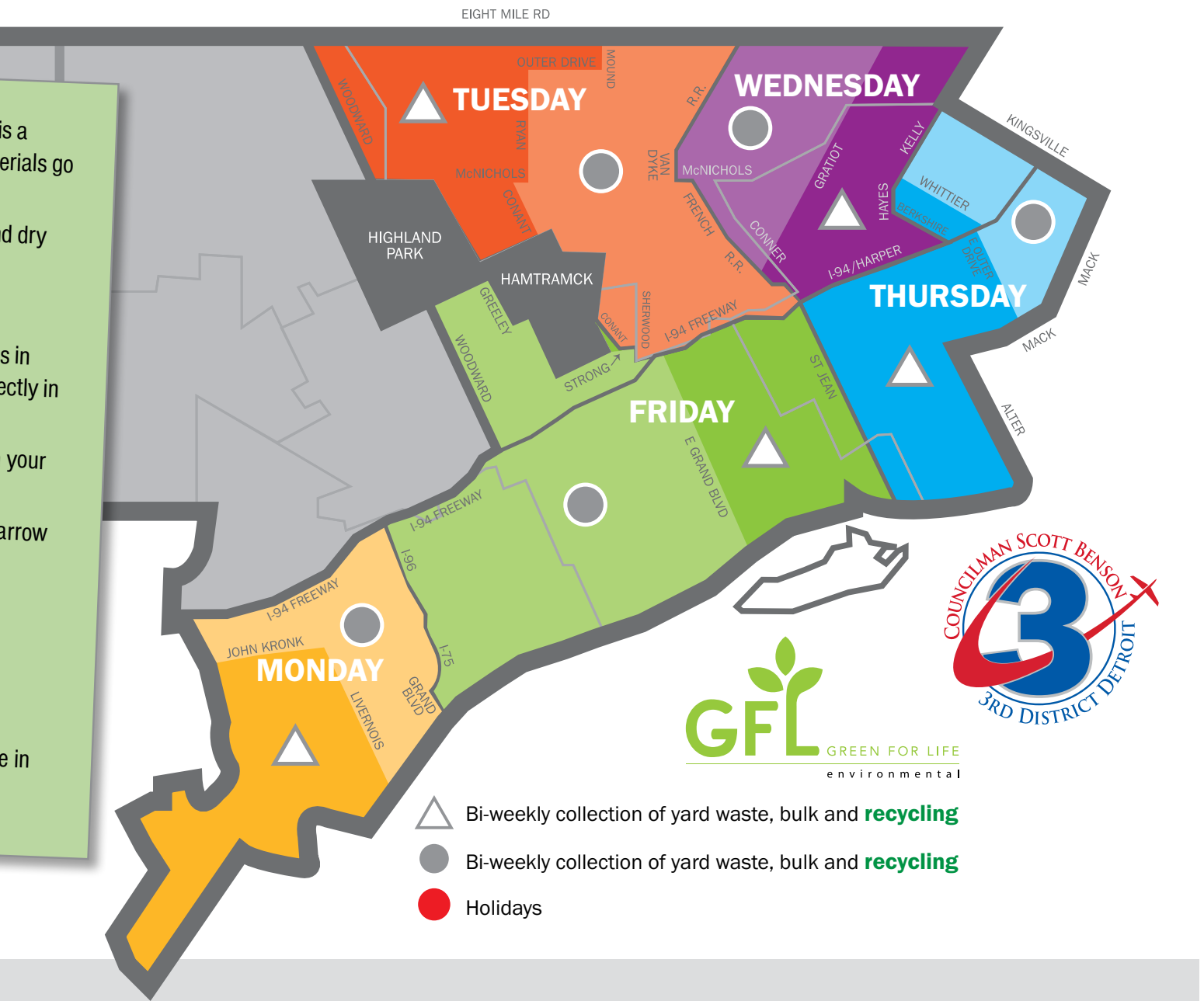
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**Holiday Collection Schedule:** If one of the following holidays occurs on a weekday: Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Day

# Calendar for East Side & Southwest Detroit



JUNE							JULY							AUGUST							SEPTEMBER							OCTOBER							NOVEMBER												
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA	SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA						
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... and your collection day falls on or after that holiday, your collection will be delayed by one day.  
 ...y, **Memorial Day, 4th of July** and **Labor Day. (National Holidays only)**

# Detroit's New Velodrome Offers Free Walking for Seniors, Free Lessons for Youth



Have you ever heard of a velodrome? A velodrome is an Olympic style indoor cycling track – a 1/10th of a mile oval for riding and racing bicycles. Detroit now has one.

The Lexus Velodrome is a multi-purpose indoor sports complex located at the corner of Mack Ave and I-75 in Tolan Playfield park. That site was named in 1968 to honor Thomas Edward Tolan, Cass Tech graduate and two-time Olympic Gold Medalist, who was the first African American man deemed the "World's Fastest Human."

In addition to the cycling track, the Lexus Velodrome has an 1/8th mile concrete oval with 4 run/walk/skating lanes, an infield area for spectators and a 1,200 sq ft bamboo floor with mirrors for fitness classes.

They offer a FREE Walking program for SENIORS 55 yrs and up on Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday mornings from 8am – 10am. And they have FREE cycling programs for YOUTH under 18 yrs old. Bikes, helmets, shoes are provided along with world class coaching.



**New riders, 17 years of age or younger, must attend the free cycling 101 class Monday - Thursday, from 4pm-6pm.**

The facility is led by Dale Hughes, executive director of the Detroit Fitness Foundation and a velodrome designer who has built more than 20 velodromes around the world.

*Tickets for the SATURDAY NIGHT RACES are \$10 & \$15 and available online at [LexusVelodrome.com](http://LexusVelodrome.com) or at the door. Doors open at 6pm. Races are from 7:30- 9:30pm. Get more information at 313-265-6725*

## New Sign, New Recognition for Banglatown



For about 20 years Banglatown has been Detroit's best kept secret. Straddling the border of Hamtramck and Highland Park, Banglatown, is in Detroit's 48212 area code - in the northwest corner of the 3rd District. This area has steadily become one of Detroit's most vibrant communities. This past summer, Banglatown was officially recognized with a City Council resolution and a new "Welcome to Banglatown" sign on the west side of Jane Field. The ceremony was presided over by Mayor Mike Duggan and Councilman Scott

Benson with 200 community leaders present.

Banglatown has allowed many Detroiters to experience authentic Asian cultures. The main street of Banglatown, Conant, was renamed Bangladesh Avenue in 2008. The Avenue displays an impressive business district with over 50 business on a one mile stretch in the Detroit/Hamtramck border; more than 30 of those businesses are in Detroit.

Community leaders have been working to help spur additional community revitalization that leverages the Bangladeshi assets in the neighborhood. These have included connecting business owners to alternative lending sources, economic development grant opportunities, and efforts to develop the region into a cultural tourism destination.



### Residency Has Its Privileges! Don't Miss Out!

Are you signed up for the District 3 text message service? In the past few months, subscribers have won FREE tickets to Smokey Robinson and Xscape concerts, Detroit Pistons games and to the Harlem Globetrotters. That's in addition to up to date information on resources, community news and events. "It's a great service and I encourage all 3rd District residents to sign up." **Sign up by texting "District3" to 555888.**

# Community Resources

**Our District office is open Monday thru Friday 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. to help connect you with the programs, services and resources that meet your needs. Feel free to call, walk-in or email. 313-530-0587**

- **Terry Catchings**, *District Chief*  
catchingst@detroitmi.gov
- **Dominque Jordan**, *Office Manager*  
jordando@detroitmi.gov
- **Michael Stewart**, *Immigrant Liaison*  
stewartm@detroitmi.gov

## Jobs and Training / Detroit at Work

Monday-Wednesday 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. Thursday 8 a.m. - 7 p.m. Call 313 962-9675  
visit [www.detroitatwork.com](http://www.detroitatwork.com)

## City of Detroit Jobs

[www.governmentjobs.com/careers/Detroit](http://www.governmentjobs.com/careers/Detroit)

**Help with Water Bills:** 313-386-9727

**Heating Bills:** 1-800-866-8429

[www.thawfund.org](http://www.thawfund.org)

## Help with Taxes:

313-224-3560 or 313-224-3011

## Housing Questions

**Detroit Housing:** 313-224-6380

**Detroit Land Bank:** 313-974-6869

**Detroit Housing Commission:** 313-877-8000

**United Community Housing Coalition:**

313-963-3310

## Zero Percent Home Repair Loans

visit [www.detroitmeloans.org](http://www.detroitmeloans.org)

MSHDA Property Improvement 313-256-8430

## Resources for Young People

**Detroit Promise Free College Tuition**, information go to [www.detroitchamber.com](http://www.detroitchamber.com)

After School Recreation Programs 313-224-1100 or go to [www.detroitmi.gov/recreation](http://www.detroitmi.gov/recreation)

## Senior Services

**Meals on Wheels:** 313-446-4444 or go to [www.detroit seniorsolution.org/meals-wheels-mow](http://www.detroit seniorsolution.org/meals-wheels-mow)

**Recreation Activities:** 313-224-1100 or [www.detroitmi.gov/recreation](http://www.detroitmi.gov/recreation)

**Senior Housing Resources:** 313-456-3540 or [www.michigan.gov/mshda](http://www.michigan.gov/mshda)  
313-224-6380 or go to [www.detroitmi.gov/HRD](http://www.detroitmi.gov/HRD).

## Senior Transit DDOT, Metro Lift:

313-933-1300 or [www.detroitmi.gov/ddot](http://www.detroitmi.gov/ddot)

## Neighborhood Services

**Report Blight from your cell phone** go to the Apple® App. Store or Google® Play download the **Improve Detroit App**.

Issues may be reported online from your desktop computer at **SeeClickFix.com** any questions contact DPW 313-876-0426

**Building Safety Engineering Main:** 313-224-2733

**City Clerk:** 313-224-3260

**Dept. of Neighborhoods:** 313-224-4415

**Dept. of Transportation:** 313-933-1300

**Detroit Police and Fire Emergency Only 911**

**Non- Emergency / Crime Reporting Calls**  
313-267-4600

**Report a Drug House:** 224-DOPE ( 3673 )

**Board of Police Commissioners:** 313-596-1830

**General Services Dept.:** 313-628-0900

**Trees & Forestry:** 313-871-5461/ 24 hrs 313-590-3336

**Health Dept.:** 313-876-4000

**Animal Care & Control:** 313-224-6356

**Dental:** ( Wednesdays only ) 313-305-0440

**Mayor's Office Main:** 313-224-3400

**Ombudsman:** 313-224-6000

**Street Lights:** 313-267-8140

**Sidewalk Repairs:** 313-224-1610

**Water and Sewerage Dept. Emergencies:** 313-267-7401

**Bill Payment Assistance and Options:** 313-267-8000

**Trash and Bulk GFL:** 586-772-8900 or 844-464-3587





**Councilman Scott Benson**  
 2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1340  
 Detroit, MI 48226



13560 E. McNichols  
 Detroit, MI 48205



**Join my text service by texting**  
**“District3” to 555888**  
 to receive up-to-date info on job  
 opportunities, new resources,  
 community services and  
 events delivered directly  
 to your cell phone.  
**Please sign up!**

## Councilman Scott Benson’s Staff

**Carol Banks** *Chief of Staff*

**Tiombe Nakenge** *Executive Assistant*

**Kerwin Wimberley** *Senior Policy Analyst*

**Martell Bivings** *Policy Analyst*

**Terry Catchings** *District Chief*

**Michael Stewart (Imam Saadiq)** *Immigrant Community Liaison*

**Dominique Jordan** *Office Manager*

### Councilman Benson’s Office

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 Phone: (313) 224-1198

### District Office

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 Detroit, MI 48205  
 Phone: (313) 530-0587

## The 3rd District is Social!

Stay connected with your community. Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



@Scottinthe3rd



Councilman Scott Benson