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Volume 17 No. 22

May 30, 2025

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The Review

Hamtramck

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Quick Hits

City kicks off 'Every Neighbor' volunteer program

By Max Gilginas and Isabel Allaway

With the ongoing city-wide street construction, we hope you have noticed that the city and its volunteers have been planting trees, picking up trash, and mowing lawns for senior and disabled residents.

This summer presents us with overwhelming tasks and we need your help. We have many programs for which we need volunteers. The Every Neighbor program is growing quickly as our most vulnerable residents attempt to tackle yardwork, do tasks outside their homes, and keep in compliance with the city ordinances.

In four years, we have gone from helping a single resident to helping over 60 households! And that number continues to grow.

• If you are a senior and/or disabled and need help with your lawn, weeds, or taking out your trash, please contact Max Gilginas at 313-800-5233 x326, and leave a message. For quicker service, please email everyneighbor@gmail.com.

If you are interested in volunteering – including helping with tree plantings through the Grow Hamtramck initiative – please email mgilginas@hamtramckcity.gov.

• To donate to the Every Neighbor Program, you can find our wish list here: <https://www.amazon.com/registries/gl/guest-view/3QSYX6C-40QHW8>. Contact us in any of the above ways or drop your donation off at City Hall. This helps us buy yard waste bags, safety equipment, lawn tools, and water for volunteers.

• If you have a local

Continued on page 3

HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD

In Hamtramck, only a few observe Memorial Day service

By Charles Sercombe

Once again, a small group of Hamtramck's aging veterans, maybe a dozen or so, gathered to hold a Memorial Day service.

Unlike years past – in fact, not all that long ago – there are no longer 100-plus veterans and residents who gather on Memorial Days to honor those who died in service to their country.

And unlike not too long ago, there are no longer local elected leaders on hand to add their comments about the solemnity of the day.

It's now a humble service, with many in attendance in their 70s, and it doesn't appear there will be others to follow in their footsteps.

This year's Memorial Day observation was held this past Sunday at the Post 6 hall on the corner of Evaline and McDougall.

The service is usually held at the Veterans Park monument that honors Hamtramck's war dead, and which includes all of their 208 names engraved upon it. But since Jos. Campau is all torn up in front of Veterans Park, making it nearly impossible to get there, this year those doing the honoring met at the Post.

It was unusual that the service was held on a Sunday instead of Monday, but it was done that way because ... well, because people had things to do, said Post 6 Commander Mark Widzinski.

Regardless, the message of Memorial Day

hasn't changed in all these years.

"The purpose of Memorial Day," said Widzinski in a short ceremony, "is two-fold: One is to honor those men and women of the U.S. military who have given their lives fighting for freedom.

"And two, for us to have a better understanding of the cost of freedom."

Speaking of those who are honored at the city's memorial site and who fought in faraway lands and never returned, Widzinski said:

"These men had the character to do the right thing – not the easy thing, or take the easy way out. Our marines, soldiers and sailors came as a liberating force, not as conquerors."

Hamtramck's war dead, Widzinski said, fought to preserve our form of government and the freedoms that are protected in the constitution and bill of rights.

For the generations who follow, he said "we have an obligation to keep our city worthy of their sacrifice. And with every freedom comes a responsibility. It is our responsibility to pass these freedoms on to the next generation."



City manager gears up to sue city

By Charles Sercombe

In an emotionally charged city council meeting on Tuesday, City Manager Max Garbarino didn't stand a chance.

After an angry exchange between Garbarino and Mayor Amer Ghalib, the city manager was placed on administrative leave with pay.

And Garbarino wasted no time in getting a lawyer the next day to prepare a lawsuit.



City Manager Max Garbarino

His attorney, Jonathan Marko, told Fox 2 News that Garbarino's lawsuit will be "big."

"When you let it be known about illegalities like Max did, he's a whistleblower," said Marko.

The reason for his suspension is based on anonymous accusations of wrongdoings that were posted on social media, and separate accusations by Police Chief Jamiel Altaheri.

Garbarino was suspended a week after he suspended Police Chief Altaheri and a department investigator.

City hall has turned out to be a tangled web of personnel clashes, not only between the city manager and police chief, but also the city council and mayor.

In other words, it's a mess.

Let's return with the latest development of the city manager.

Garbarino says the allegations of wrongdoing are "spurious," and based on a lack of "understanding our city charter, or our system of municipal government."

He repeatedly characterized the allegations

Continued on page 2

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City manager gears up to sue city

Cont. from front page

as “stupid.”

Mayor Amer Ghalib insisted that Garbarino be suspended just like Police Chief Altaheri and department investigator, Dave Adamczyk, since they are now also under investigation.

Ghalib said Garbarino should be included because he is “part of the issue.”

Police Chief Altaheri had been under an internal investigation by Adamczyk, and the chief is now being alleged to have played a role in transporting a stolen vehicle, arranging a presidential pardon for a convicted New York financier, domestic abuse and other allegations.

Altaheri has denied the allegations, and welcomes an investigation by the FBI.

The FBI is reportedly now handling the investigation, although that agency has not yet confirmed their involvement, and generally do not comment on ongoing investigations.

Adamczyk is being accused of falsifying overtime work, secretly recording the police chief during a heated argument while on a vacation cruise with the mother of Altaheri’s child, blackmailing the chief, and other allegations.

Adamczyk has denied all those accusations.

Garbarino said he authorized the investigation into the police chief based on a number of incidents about which he did not go into detail.

At times, Ghalib lashed out at Garbarino, accusing him of creating a “police mentality” in city hall, and causing him to feel unsafe.

“How do I know there are no recording devices or cameras in my office, in my car?” Ghalib said. “I have zero trust now.”

rino issued a statement outlining the potential legal blowback, including the violation of the Whistleblower Protection Act, the council and mayor face if he were suspended.

But Ghalib dismissed that threat, saying: “Why do you think your lawsuit is scary?”

The decision to suspend Garbarino came after an hour-and-a-half of public comment on the chief’s suspension, with most speakers – some of whom came from Dearborn – speaking in favor of the chief and urging the firing of Garbarino.

That was followed by an angry 45-minute back-and-forth between Mayor Ghalib and Garbarino – exploding what had already been a growing fracture in their relationship.

Garbarino, who is white, said that it comes down to the all-Muslim council rallying around the city’s first Muslim police chief, who also happens to be a Yemeni immigrant – just like the mayor and Councilmembers Khalil Refai and Mohammed Alsomiri.

Garbarino acknowledged the chief is a popular public figure in the community, saying that he’s “a Yemeni police chief who’s the first of his kind here ...”

At which point Mayor Ghalib interrupted to say: “That has nothing to do with it.”

Garbarino continued: “It has absolutely everything to do with this.”

At one point, at the mayor’s urging, and with the advice of City At-

torney Odey Meroueh, the council went into a short closed meeting to discuss what action they should take with Garbarino.

That meeting, however, has led to questions about whether they violated the state’s Open Meetings Act (OMA) to discuss disciplinary action against a city employee without the employee, in this case Garbarino, being included.

The OMA specifically says a closed meeting, in such cases, can only be held “if the named person requests a closed session.”

Garbarino was not included in that meeting.

After the closed meeting, the council unanimously voted to suspend Garbarino with pay, at which point he left the council chambers with police officers following him.

The city’s Finance Director, Syed Aamir Ahsan, was appointed acting city manager.

Mayor Ghalib, who is an appointee of President Trump and waiting to be confirmed by the U.S. Senate to be the next ambassador to Kuwait, justified Garbarino’s suspension saying:

“Having you in city hall will cause some interference into this investigation, and I don’t think it’s fair to have you here while the police chief is part of the investigation.”

Ghalib added that, if Garbarino is cleared, “we will welcome you (back) happily.”

In the past, such fractures between the city manager and city council and mayor have typically resulted in the city manager being fired.



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This week at the Library . . .

May 30, 2025

Summer Reading: Registration for the summer reading program are starting. The program will begin on June 25 and continue through August. Participants will have a chance to win great prizes just for reading books. Programs will include entertaining topics, arts and crafts, music, NERF battles, festival and parties. The schedule will include:

June 25th - Solar Neighbors at 2 pm
July 2nd - Poster Craft at 2 pm
July 9th - D.J. in the mix at 1:30 pm
July 16 - D.J. in the mix 2 at 1:30 pm
July 23rd - NERF battles at 2 pm
July 30th - Star Lab at 2 pm
Aug.6th - Japanese Bon Festival 2 pm
Aug. 13th - Dog Man Movie at 2 pm

Proposition 13: On June 6, 1978 by a vote of almost two to one, California voters approved this proposition, an amendment to the state constitution severely limiting property tax rates.

Story Time: Get your kids together and drop in on our Wednesday noon programs with library staff, and on first Mondays of the month at 3:45 pm (usually) with members of the Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

Hong Kong Lease: On June 9, 1898 the British signed a 99-year lease for Hong Kong, located on the southeastern coast of China. It consisted of an area measuring 400 square miles, was administered as a British Crown Colony until July 1, 1997, when its sov-

eighty reverted to the People’s Republic of China.

Exercise in the Library: The Yoga classes returned on Tuesdays at 2:30 p. The Tai Chi classes will return in February. The program is sponsored by the RIM Foundation.

ESL Classes: The Horizon school is sponsoring ESL classes at the library, held Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesday at 9:00 am and 12:00 noon. They are free of charge to Hamtramck residents. Registration required. There is an additional class on Thursdays ant 9 am and 12 noon that is conducted by ESL assistant.

Stream on Hoopla: There are tons of shows and movies available for you to stream on Hoopla. Cooking competitions, rom-coms, thrillers, cand comfy holiday classics. Selection is massive. If that is not enough, give Kanopy a try. They provide a specially curated collection of foreign films, domestic cinema classics, award winning documentaries, and educational media that is topnotch. Look to the eResources tab on our website for a quick link to all this awesome content.

First Mint in America: On June 10, 1652 in Massachusetts, silversmith John Hull opened the first mint in America in defiance of English law.

Game Night: We are moving to Wednesdays. Join us for Game Night at the library. We are serving up something fun each Wednesday at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play. Everyone invited.

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822
Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> for on line catalog
Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Mayor and city council need to stay in their lanes

For many of us here in town, there is a lot to absorb from the last few weeks.

One thing, however, is clear, if not obvious: city hall is in turmoil, and it appears that the saga of the police chief, and others, keeps unfolding, with one new revelation after another.

The accusations and counteraccusations are flying back and forth at a dizzying speed.

And there is a lot of finger-pointing and speculations and outlandish accusations of illegal this and that.

Folks, a little friend-

ly advice: take a break from it all and let the investigators – whether they be the state police or the FBI – do their job.

Will the truth ever be revealed and matters settled once and for all? Ha!

No investigation has ever satisfied everyone all the time.

But this is the system we have, and it requires a lot of faith that an inquiry will be impartial – not that we are naïve in thinking that some things will only get muddier.

In the meantime, we urge the mayor and city

council to take a close look at the city charter and re-read what their roles are – as well as the role of the city manager.

Our city charter calls for the city manager to be in charge – not the mayor or council.

Yes, the council can hire and fire city managers, and in the past the city has done that.

But let’s be clear: the city manager has an absolute right in firing and suspending department heads.

Now, more than ever, we need cooler heads to prevail.

Odds & Ends

From the mayor... Former Mayor Karen Majewski and current Mayor Amer Ghalib once again got into a social media spat.

Ghalib initially posted a comment about the ongoing drama involving the police chief, and his position on the matter. Here’s what he had to say:

“My strongest weapon of defense is my integrity, which I will challenge the whole world with as long as there is justice and transparency.

“Some people think I run the city in the same way they used to, that’s why they have so much delusions and paranoia!

“I welcome the FBI, State Police and Wayne County Sheriff to get involved in this current investigation, and I cannot wait to speak to them and to hear from all mentioned parties to get the truth out to the public because they deserve to know it!”

Majewski took issue with one part of Ghalib’s comment. Here’s her response:

“Tell me, what do you mean when you say ‘run the city in the same way they used to.’

“The FBI and the DOJ have been weaponized by a traitorous president and incompetent lackeys in leadership, so the entire country has good reason to distrust them.”

Ghalib’s response:

“I’ll give you one example of the work ethics of some of your appointees in one of the most important commissions, the housing commission:

“In March 2022, I removed three commissioners and I sent them emails, which they acknowledged receiving, and it was effective immediately.

“I replaced them with three others.

“Before their next monthly meeting, two of them attended a special meeting on April 7th, where they took some dangerous decisions including changing some contracts, changing the director’s succession plan and many others shown on the agenda that we were able to retrieve!

“That happened after they were terminated and were no longer active members.

“Everything is documented by date!

“These are criminal ac-

tivities that need to be investigated as well.

I’m not sure where did they learn it from, that it was OK to abuse their power and do such illegal practices!

“You might be able to tell me since you the one who appointed them, you know them more than I do.”

Majewski shot back:

“Ameer Ghalib, you are implying that I abused my power and committed illegal acts. Talk is cheap.”

Ghalib’s retort:

“I never said you personally did, but I witnessed serious violations by people you appointed or you worked with.

“By the way, you will never see such things on the news, because the people who are fascinated with reporting everything to the news are not interested unless it’s related to certain group of people, and we have priorities to focus on instead of creating drama all the time.

“Imagine if our council members fight with each other and punch each others and use the F word live during the meetings like some of the previous elected officials in your time did, how would that be on the news? I’m not saying you are responsible for their behavior, but just compare and contrast!

“Or imagine with me that our city falls into emergency management again just like it did multiple times during your leadership, how would the news deal with that?

“Thanks for taking the time to read my thoughts.”

And since social media doesn’t exist in a vacuum, there are responses:

“Ameer Ghalib aren’t four of your councilmen under investigation for election fraud? Talk of glass houses, mate,” said a person who goes by the name Silky Maria.

And former City Councilmember Phillip Kwik, who is ever-ready with a comment on Hamtramck issues said:

“Ameer Ghalib your integrity!? Tell the Palestinians about your integrity as you support their genocide.”

Congrats... The good folks behind our beloved historic Hamtramck Stadium have some good news.

We’ll let them tell the story:

“Hamtramck Stadium was honored by the Michigan Historic Preservation Network with a 2025 Building Award at its annual conference.

“The award was bestowed upon project partners Friends of Historic Hamtramck Stadium (FHHS), Wayne County, Michigan, SmithGroup, DMC Group, the Hamtramck Historical Museum, and the National Park Service.

“Accepting on behalf of those groups at Lake Superior State University were Gary Gillette and Tom Niczay of FHHS; Yash Chaudhary and Areeg Kh-dairof of DMC Construction; and Brian Powers of SmithGroup. Congratulations to all those who were instrumental in the beautiful restoration of our historic stadium!”

Sign of the times... We’ve noticed that some city councilmembers, and even Mayor Amer Ghalib, have adopted a new habit.

And that is, when their feathers are ruffled, whether it’s about certain councilmembers’ residences, or the mayor’s ire over allegations about the police chief, they resort to the dramatic wailing of papers.

And in the case of Councilmembers Abu Musa and Muhith Mahmood, include pounding on a table.

Mayor and councilmembers, with all due respect, the physical flourishes don’t really make your point of view more convincing.

In fact, it’s kind of comical, and distracts from whatever points you are trying to make.

Try coming up with a new gimmick.

Hamtramck in the news... No, we don’t mean what’s going on in city hall.

Let’s try to take a breather from all that insanity. And yeah, we know, it’s hard to do that.

Instead, turn your attention to a fantastic series of stories written by John Carlisle in the Detroit Free Press that were published throughout this

Continued on page 6



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Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

business, we are always looking for sponsors and ways to reward our volunteers. Every contribution helps, whether you are willing to donate tangible rewards (especially food!!), or provide a restroom and place for our volunteers to get a break.

Please contact Every Neighbor in any of the ways mentioned above. We appreciate any help you can offer as we work to help our most vulnerable residents.

(Max Gilginas is the city's Community Involvement Coordinator, and Isabel Allaway is the city's Director of Community and Economic Development.)

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Publisher: John Ulaj • (248) 866-1110 • julaj@thehamtramckreview.com

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May 30, 2025

Hamtramck Public TV-19

Broadcasting on Comcast Channel 19 in Hamtramck area and YouTube Live world wide (Hamtramck Library Channel)

What's on this coming week?

Suspension of City Manager by City Council
Memorial Day at Hamtramck VFW Post 6
Piast Institute Hamtramck Health Hike 2025
Dedication of Hoxie Tennis Cours in Veterans Park
Motion to declare vacancy for two council seats currently held by Mr. Musa and Mr. Mahmood, and more

BECOME A LOCAL REPORTER: If you know how to take photos or make film clips on your phone, you can download them to Hamtramck TV along with a news story, to be aired the same day. Send in event announcements, comments to city officials, facts you want to share with the community, etc.

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Will go on air the same day (evening)
To upload video files go to bit.ly/hamtramcktv

CRIME LOG



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers May 20-26.

Tuesday, May 20

- Officers assisted Detroit police officers and railroad officers with a stolen vehicle report.
- An assault was reported at Caniff and Gallagher.
- A hit-and-run accident happened in the 2900 block of Dan.

Wednesday, May 21

- An incident of fraud was reported in the 9800 block of Conant.
- An assault was reported in the 9500 block of Conant.
- Officers, responding to a call about a fight in the 2100 block of Caniff, arrested one suspect.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Caniff and Lumpkin.

Thursday, May 22

- Following a traffic stop, a male was arrested for being wanted on two Hamtramck warrants, and for driving with a suspended license.
- A business on Jos. Campau complained about a disorderly customer.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the 5100 block of Yemans.
- Officers responded to a call in the 11300 block of Klinger about a person who overdosed.
- A person in the 12000 block of Selfridge complained about being harassed.
- A suspect was arrested in the 12000 block of Selfridge for domestic assault.

Friday, May 23

- At 3:30 a.m., officers investigating a suspicious person arrested a female suspect for possessing narcotics, and for obstructing officers.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Caniff and Dyar.
- A verbal dispute was reported on Dequindre.
- A theft was reported in the 9000 block of Jos. Campau.
- An assault was reported in the 2700 block of Holbrook.

Saturday, May 24

- A strong-arm robbery was reported.
- A suspicious circumstance was reported in the 11300 block of Conant.
- Trouble between neighbors was reported in the 3300 block of Holbrook.
- A person was reported missing in the 12000 block of Klinger.
- A complaint was made about a disorderly person in the 3400 block of Evaline.

Sunday, May 25

- At a little after midnight, a fight was reported in the 9400 block of Jos. Campau.
- A vehicle was stolen in the 3000 block of Yemans.
- At almost 2 a.m., a hit-and-run accident was reported in the area of Conant and Lehman.
- A vehicle was stolen in the 9500 block of McDougall.
- A vehicle was reported stolen on Holmes.
- A theft was reported on Belmont.
- A vehicle theft was reported in the 2600 block of Holbrook.
- A business in the 12000 block of Conant reported trouble with a customer.
- A trespassing complaint was made in the 12000 block of Conant.
- A vehicle was stolen in the 3900 block of Yemans.
- Family trouble was reported in the area of Lumpkin and Danforth.

Monday, May 26

- An assault was reported in the 3200 block of Lehman.
- A fight was reported at Fleming and Commor.
- A vehicle was reported stolen on Oklahoma.
- Following a traffic stop, two suspects were arrested for possessing narcotics, and for carrying a concealed weapon.
- A complaint was made about trespassing in the 12000 block of Conant.

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Coming Events

SATURDAY, June 14, 2-4 p.m. – Take-out only Soup Kitchen at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. Everyone is welcome!



LET'S TALK ABOUT

POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION

POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION (PPD) IS A SERIOUS MENTAL HEALTH CONDITION THAT AFFECTS SOME WOMEN AFTER GIVING BIRTH.

Symptoms of PPD can vary but may include feelings of sadness, hopelessness, irritability, anxiety, changes in sleep or appetite, difficulty bonding with the baby, and thoughts of harming oneself or the baby.



Why maternal mental health matters

Raising awareness about PPD is important to ensure that women receive the support and treatment they need. Family, friends, and healthcare providers play a key role in identifying symptoms and providing support to women experiencing PPD.



DWIHN.ORG

Odds & Ends

Continued from page 3

week.

John takes a deep, deep dive into the various ethnic communities of the city. He starts off the series with an overview. Best yet, John includes the voices of many folks here in town – many of whom you will recognize.

This is no superficial

look at our city like so many other publications have done in recent years. John says he has worked on this project for about a year, and he offers a compassionate yet unvarnished look at who we are, with a poetic touch.

Hamtramck has always

been a complicated city that many have said represents a microcosm of America. To this day, and maybe forever forward, Hamtramck will remain endlessly enigmatic and ever-evolving.

John is a gifted storyteller, and presents a balanced look that we think captures the many flavors and complexities of the city – which is no easy accomplishment.

The stories started last Tuesday, and concludes today, Friday. But if you missed it, there will be a special section in Sunday's Free Press that pulls all of the articles together.

Even if you just skim through, the photos by Ryan Garza are awe-inspiring, and definitely coffee table book-worthy.

Check it out, and let us know what you think.

Wikipedia has a curious omission about Mayor Ghalib

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Amer Ghalib now has something that few other Hamtramck mayors have: a Wikipedia page.

It is not known who created the page, but it presents a neutral overview of the mayor and his background.

Curiously, however, it does not say that he attended and graduated from a medical school.

Ghalib is a licensed nurse, according to the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs. He refers to his occupation as a “health care provider.”

The mayor says that he graduated with a medical degree from Ross University School of Medicine, located in Barbados.

The Review reached out to Ghalib for comment about the Wikipedia ent-

ry, and why he thinks his medical degree was not included, but he did not respond.

The university told The Review that it must first get permission from Ghalib to confirm whether he attended there and graduated. The Review asked Ghalib for permission to confirm his degree, but he did not respond.

The Detroit Free Press previously reported that the school has no record of him graduating, but did confirm he attended.

The Wikipedia entry gave this background on Ghalib:

“Ghalib was born in Yemen. He immigrated to the United States in 1997 and worked in a factory that made plastic components for cars whilst attending Hamtramck High School.

“He studied biology at Henry Ford Community College before attending Wayne State University where he received a biology degree, and became a healthcare worker at a medical office in Hamtramck.”

On the political side, his Wikipedia entry said:

“He gained national attention as mayor for implementing an ordinance banning the pride flag from display on city property, divesting from investment in Israel, and supporting Donald Trump in the 2024 United States presidential election.”

As for the controversy on his position on the pride flag, Ghalib told the Free Press when he was first elected that he would not force his personal beliefs into his policy making, saying:

“People think because of my background and my religious beliefs that I will be anti-LGBT or something, but we are in America.

“The same constitution that allowed me to practice my religion here, to pray the way I want, it gives others the same freedom to practice their beliefs and express their values the way they want.”

As for previous Hamtramck mayors being in Wikipedia, no entry has been made for the three previous mayors: Karen Majewski, Tom Jankowski, and Gary Zych.

In fact, there are only two other entries for any of Hamtramck's other past mayors: Robert Kozaren and Rudolph Ternerowicz.

From the Office of Wayne County Treasurer Eric R. Sabree



PROBATE ASSISTANCE

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Contact the Wayne County Probate Court by calling: 313-224-5706

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Tree requests will be reviewed by the City's contracted arborist for the Grow Hamtramck initiative, and you will receive a response within 3 business days. The City's goal is to plant the 1,000 trees funded by Grow Hamtramck in as many viable requested locations as possible over the next four years.

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