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— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Quick Hits

Calling all volunteers for a cleanup

By Charles Sercombe

It's time to clean up this town.

And by that, we mean volunteers are being called out to join in on the city's Fall Cleanup on Saturday, Nov. 7, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

There are four meet-up locations for volunteers to choose from:

- Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline
- Sarah Garrett Park, on the I-75 southbound service drive, near Caniff
- Veterans Park, 8690 Jos. Campau
- Pope Park, Belmont and Jos. Campau

Cleaning supplies will be provided.

The Hamtramck Beautification Commission is hosting the event, and is encouraging folks to wear costumes just to make the day fun.

Can't make it on Nov. 7?

You can still pitch in by cleaning up your yard, your portion of your alley, and the street in front of your residence.

As most folks know, litter in Hamtramck is a constant problem. Seems like some people just can't help being slobs and throwing trash on the streets or on vacant lots.

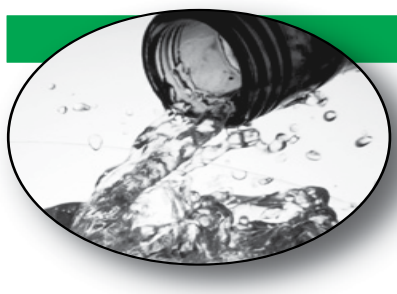
Friendship House receives a helping financial hand

Hamtramck's food pantry, Detroit Friendship House, located at 9540 Conant, just got a huge financial gift totaling $20,000.

The donations came from the Good Vibes Foundation, the charitable arm of Vibe Credit Union.

"When nearly four in 10 Michiganders struggle to afford basic necessities and one in five Michigan children face hunger, the need in our communities is impossible to ignore," said Stephanie Leahy, executive director of the Good Vibes Foundation and vice president of com-

Continued on page 2



Toast of the Town

A walk for awareness and a swingin' 60s party

By Charles Sercombe

A gorgeous and sunny fall afternoon provided the perfect backdrop for a busy recent Saturday.

First up was a one-mile walk, hosted by the Hamtramck Police Department, to raise awareness about breast cancer and domestic violence.

About 50, or so, people showed up at Zussman Park first to listen to some speakers, and then to hit the streets for the walk.

Speaking to the gathering, Police Chief Hussein Farhat said that breast cancer hit home even for him: he lost two family members to the disease.

"Those losses were devastating," Farhat said.

As for domestic violence – which occurs weekly in Hamtramck, according to the police department's incident reports – the chief said this is a "community issue."

"Our community stands for safety," Farhat added.

Joseph Dixon, who is a Drug Enforcement Agency officer, said the gathering "is what a village looks like. We all come together for two causes."

Erin Schrieber of the American Cancer Society noted that roughly one in every eight women will be diagnosed with breast cancer.

"But, there is hope," she said.

That hope is built on years of medical advancements for both detecting and treating the disease. The death rate for those with breast cancers has been reduced by almost half, 44 percent, over the years, Schrieber said.

The day was far from over after the community walk.

Saturday evening turned into a groovy time warp at the Hamtramck Historical Museum, where a fundraiser was held. The theme of this party was the swinging 60s – as in the 1960s, when youth-driven music and fashion exploded around the country.

Officially, it was called "Hamtramck Hullabaloo."

Folks got into the spirit of the night by dressing up in 1960s-era clothing, meaning tie-dyed T-Shirts, hippie beads, mod hair wigs and, in one case, a fella wearing a silver-colored NASA-styled space suit.

(In the 1960s what kid didn't want to be an astronaut for NASA?)

Music was provided by a DJ, who (naturally) played all the biggest hits of that era – and yes, the notorious "Louie Louie" by the Kingsmen was spun.

By the end of the party it was time to say (with apologies to the Kingsmen), "Me gotta go now."

When it comes to good food and great times, Hamtramck has plenty to offer. In this column, we'll talk about what's happening at our bars, restaurants and at other events throughout the city.















Mayoral election not over yet

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck may have a new mayor, but he's no stranger to voters.

Former city councilmember Muhith Mahmood is now slated to be in the mayor's seat, following the tabulation of 37 uncounted ballots from last year's November election.

The ballots were tabulated in a three-hour meeting by the Wayne County Board of Canvassers on Friday.

The ballots in question were found a day after the November election by employees in the Hamtramck City Clerk's office, and they were immediately taken to Wayne County election officials.

But the Board of Canvassers declined to count those ballots, which set off an eight-month legal battle. Mahmood argued in favor of counting the ballots, while Mayor Adam Alharbi was opposed.

And this long saga is not over yet.

Alharbi and his attorney, Nabih Ayad, have vowed to challenge those 37 ballots.

"This dance is not over," Ayad told reporters, after the new election results were announced.

Mahmood won't officially become the mayor until the Board of Canvassers certify the results on Nov. 4, and he is then sworn into office.

So, in the meantime, Alharbi is still the mayor until a residency issue with Mahmood is settled, said city Attorney Odey Meroueh. It was initially thought that Councilmember Abu Musa, who is the mayor pro tem, would fill in as mayor until Mahmood is sworn into office.

Musa could still become the acting mayor until Mahmood is qualified to hold elective office and is sworn in.

Mahmood's residency hearing was scheduled for Thursday, the day The Review went to press. Mahmood says he has all the documentation needed to prove he is, indeed, a resident, and thus qualified to hold elective office in Hamtramck.

Alharbi insists that Mahmood is not a resident of the city, although Alharbi has struck out so far in court to have Mahmood disqualified on

Continued on page 2



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Mayoral election not over yet

Continued from front page

that basis.

Mahmood has denied the charge, saying that, although his wife and family live in Troy, he lives in Hamtramck, in an apartment on Holbrook.

As for being named the winner of the election, Mahmood said, simply, "I'm elated."

Alharbi conceded that the election result from the newly counted ballots was expected.

"It's not a surprise," he said.

Mahmood might be facing more legal challenges.

Ayad said that the Attorney General's office is considering whether to bring criminal charges against a person he declined to name.

"You can probably guess who," Ayad told the press.

Mahmood told The Review that Ayad is likely referring to him.

While there have been previous investigations into election fraud, none of the felony charges filed against some city councilmembers have held up in court.

As for the 37 ballots from last November's election, Alharbi fought against counting them, claiming that, since they were discovered a day after the November election, they should not be included in the final count because they had lost their "chain of custody."



Former city councilmember Muhith Mahmood was declared the winner of the last year's November mayoral election after 37 uncounted ballots from that election were finally tallied by Wayne County election officials.

But Mahmood prevailed after a number of court hearings, and finally won his case to have those ballots tallied.

On top of all this, Alharbi says he will challenge the 37 ballots over such things as whether their signatures match with each voter's signature that is already on record. This will require the Wayne County Board of Canvassers to once again meet and conduct the recount.

As it turned out, Mahmood toppled Alharbi by 12 votes, winning 2,089 votes compared to Alharbi's 2,077 votes.

Alharbi initially won the November election, minus the 37 missing votes, by 11 votes.

After the new results were announced, a loud cheer rang out from Mahmood's supporters, who were packed into the meeting room where the ballots were counted.

It took the county a pain-staking three hours to get through the process in a room that turned hot and sweaty, as well as thick with tension in the air. The county repeatedly cautioned those in attendance to keep their emotions in check and be courteous to others while speaking.

Mahmood stressed that his quest to have the 37 ballots counted was not about him becoming the mayor, but rather about upholding "voters' rights."

He called for Alharbi to now "move forward."

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

Election turnaround has our heads spinning

If you are wondering what in the world is going on in city hall these days, you're not alone.

The battle for position of mayor has taken a topsy-turvy spin; one that has left a number of people baffled. It seems Hamtramck is fraying apart and is rudderless.

It's a good guess that folks just want Hamtramck politics to go away.

Residents now have to contend with having a new mayor – apparently, the guy who should have been mayor all along for these past eight months, according to the new election results.

In a dramatic turn of events, on Friday it was announced that Mayor Adam Alharbi's mayoral challenger, former city councilmember Muhith Mahmood, actually had more votes in last year's November election, and is thus the rightful mayor.

Unless, hold on, it's proven that Mahmood is not actually a resident of the city, which Alharbi contends. A court hearing on this matter was considered on Thursday, the day The Review went to press.

Still following along?

Yes, it's complicated, and quite frankly this situation makes Hamtramck look like an unstable community where the city's elections are corrupt.

And that's the harm of this constant political battle coming out of city hall.

Worse, this chaos comes at a time when the city is searching for a permanent city manager. It makes one wonder: who in their right mind would ever want to come work here as city manager?

No matter what kind of nonsense happens in city hall, the strength of any city lies with the people who live there.

And that's where you come in, Hamtramckans. This is a time to rally around each other, and keep plowing ahead.

Word to the wise: Ignore the noise coming out of city hall.



City Hall Insider ...

What is our City Council up to these days? We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Aug. 25, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

Isabel Allaway, the Director of the Community Economic Department, discussed a proposal limiting parking on Jos. Campau to no more than four hours in one space.

She said the city's Downtown Development Authority did a survey of Campau businesses and found that the majority of business owners supported the limit.

Store owners reported that people were parking all day in front of their businesses.

"They don't have enough turnover," Allaway said.

The parking limit would be in effect from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., but overnight parking would still be permitted.

Councilmember Mohammed Hassan said that limiting parking time would cause "chaos."

(At a later meeting, the policy was adopted.)

During public comment, the Executive Director of the Ukrainian American Archives & Museum of Detroit, Olga Liskiwskyi, said parking limits should be expanded to include other business districts in the city, such as on Holbrook and Conant.

However, she cautioned city officials that "something has to be planned before you institute a change to the (existing) ordinance."

Liskiwskyi added that, considering the issue the city had with parking meters, she is concerned that by rushing into a decision, "We're going to be negatively impacted again."

Bill Meyer said that there are good things happening in the city, such as the ongoing replacement of lead water lines.

"It's very exciting to see people improving the city," Meyer said.

However, Meyer said there are too many lawsuits filed against the city.

"This does not help our city, first of all," he said.

Meyer said that councilmembers need to stop filing lawsuits against each other and "avoid personal things getting in the way. We need accountability for everything you do. We need to know why you do what you do, what you're doing."

Meyer added: "I don't know who's going to write this down because our newspaper in the city isn't fair at all."

Mark Koroi, an attorney, agreed with Meyer saying: "Let's have less litigation on the city. I've been a part of it myself, and it's just lawsuit (after) lawsuit. … We need to learn to work together."

Ahmed Sharaf Aldeen, an independent journalist, said that councilmember Yousuf Saed owes him $1,000. Saed later denied that.

Former Councilmember Khalil Refai urged the council to begin searching for a city manager.

"It's time to hire a city manager that'll work day-to-day," he said.

Refai said the current interim city manager is also the city's finance director, and shouldn't be doing two jobs at once.

In an email, a person said that Ahmed Aldeen should not be hired as a code inspector because he will issue violations against residents "with whom he has held previous disagreements."

The person said this will lead to "potential legal liability."

In old business, Mayor Adam Alharbi requested the council agree to pay

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Odds & Ends

Vote! … If you want to avoid lines and get an early jump on participating in this November's election, get yourself over to city hall.

Early in-person voting at city hall starts tomorrow, Saturday, Oct. 24, and goes until Nov. 1.

You can vote anytime, seven days a week during early voting, from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

If you are not registered to vote yet, and qualify to do so, you can do so even on election day – and cast a ballot then, too.

Holiday drive … The good folks with the Hamtramck Drug Free Community Coalition (HDFCC) and Piast Institute are gearing up for the holiday season.

They are seeking donations for their annual Holiday Senior Giveaway.

We'll let the organizations explain, via their Facebook posting:

"Last year, thanks to the incredible generosity of our community, we were able to reach more than 300 people and households. We provided holiday packages to every resident of the Hamtramck Senior High Rise and served 150 individuals at St. Joseph's Nursing Home.

"Our 2026 giveaway is scheduled for Dec. 15 and 17, and we aim to prepare approximately 300 holiday packages filled with useful and comforting items for local seniors."

They are seeking the following donations:

- Personal hygiene products
- Socks, gloves, and other one-size-fits-all items
- Lotion, cups, and small calendars
- Small pantry items, such as individual pancake mixes
- Other practical, senior-friendly items suitable for holiday gift packages

Please avoid clothing items that require specific sizing, as these can be difficult to distribute appropriately.

Of course, money donations are also welcomed. And for tax purposes, Piast Institute is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit organization, so your donation is tax deductible.

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Piast is also seeking volunteers to help assemble the holiday packages and assist with deliveries.

All donated items must arrive at our office no later than Tuesday, Dec. 1.

Restored … Several years ago, the city gave Dan St. the honorary name Pinky Deras Way.

For those unfamiliar, Deras was both a star pitcher and slugger for the Hamtramck Little League baseball team back in 1959. He was a true Hamtramck hero.

Anyway, somewhere along the line the street sign came down or went missing.

But, recently, the city restored the sign, and the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy also continues to honor the Greatest Little Leaguer's legacy by maintaining "Pinky Deras Field" out behind Turkey Stearnes Field and Historic Hamtramck Stadium.

Citizenship … The Hamtramck Federation of Teachers is hosting citizenship classes.

The October classes have already come and gone, but the next round of classes will be held on Nov. 23 and 24.

The classes are free, and you can sign up for them by emailing the teachers federation at: hft1052president@gmail.com.

Yes, soup for you …This Sunday, why not take some of that new chill out of the autumn air with some good, hot Polish soup?

You're going to want to head on down to St. Florian's Church for the home-cooked soups, and they're dishing it up all day Sunday, from 11:30 a.m. to 7 p.m.

It's also a whole day of stuff happening here, in fact: not just soups, but other food, a bar, music and other performances, and family fun.

St. Florian's is located at 2626 Poland, between Poland and Florian at Latham, west of Jos. Campau.

Admission is free for all.

Hey! Leave some for us!

Spooky action … The Halloween season is here, and this Wednesday will offer some mildly eerie goings on for the family at Zussman Park, 3401 Evaline, across from city hall.

That's where the Hamtramck Police, Fire and Recreation departments are collaborating to throw their annual "Trunk or Treat" safe Halloween event.

So again, it will be held this coming Wednesday, Oct. 28, from 5-6:30 p.m. in front of city hall.

You can still squeeze in signing up to be one of the host cars giving out candy from your car trunk by today, Friday, Oct. 23: go to tinyurl.com/hamtort.

You can also donate candy to the event by dropping it off.

Speaking of donations, the departments thank the Queen of Apostles Senior Group for their donation of bags of chips for the event.

They also wanted to make sure to thank Mrs. Wilk for dropping stuff off.

Now have fun with it!

Dig This! … This Halloween, try scaring up some history.

Come to observe some Wayne State University archaeologists next Saturday, Halloween day, Oct. 31 from 10 a.m. – 1 p.m. at 2459 Jos. Campau, as they dig through the remains of the day.

Dubbed "Public Archaeology Day," this open-to-the-public event is an ongoing excavation on the former site of the Dodge UAW Local 3 union hall, as well as the Kraft Hotel, which dated back into the 1800s.

These projects typically involve the Hamtramck Historical Museum, who routinely partners with the WSU Archaeology Department on their city digs.

Watch as the students and supervising faculty unearth Hamtramck history, one trowel-full at a time.

Parking is free on Denton and Alice Sts.

At least, it won't rot your teeth…



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Obituaries

POLAS



Barbara Polas (neé Muzyczak), 80, died October 1, 2026.

Loving mother of Debbie Polas, Barbara lost her 10-year battle with Parkinson's disease. She was born in Bevensen, Germany to her late parents Anthony and Helen Muzyczak.

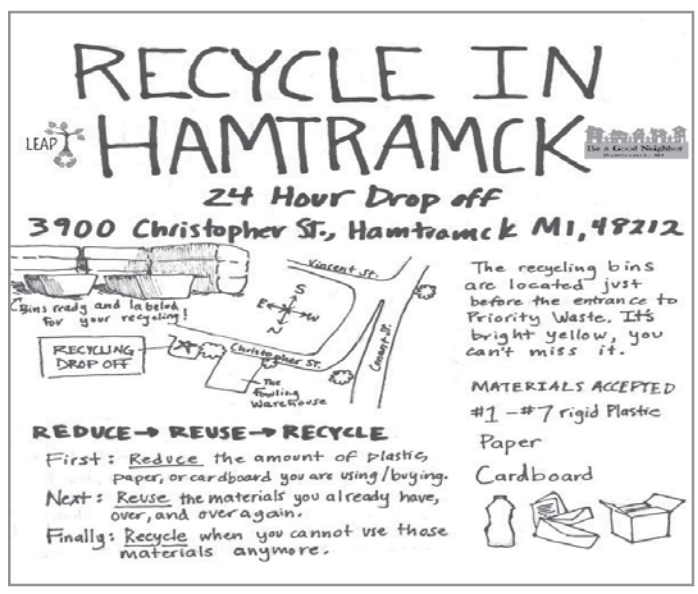
Barbara enjoyed the outdoors and loved to travel as often as she could. She loved taking car rides up north, both to see the color change and going anywhere near water. She loved going to the opera, symphony, ballet, theater and art museums.

Barb was a kind, caring and very generous person and would do anything for you, if she could.

She was great at planning vacations and she had a bubbly personality and always loved to talk to anyone she met.

Barbara is survived by her daughter Debbie and niece, Barbara Covell and nephew Donald Covell. She was proceeded in death by her sister Donna Clark and granddaughter Erica Childress.

A celebration of life was held by family and friends.



CRIME LOG

By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 10-14.

Saturday, Oct. 10

- A fight was reported on Conant.
- A complaint was made about noise in the 9800 block of Winfield.
- A break-in was reported in the 11400 block of McDougall.
- A theft was reported in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau.
- Trespassing was reported in the 11600 block of Jos. Campau.
- Property damage was reported in the 2700 block of Poland.

Sunday, Oct. 11

- A break-in was reported in the 3800 block of Yemans. A break-in was also reported in the 2100 block of Caniff.
- A complaint was made about an animal on Mackay.
- An assault was reported on Trowbridge.
- A disorderly person was reported on Yemans.

Monday, Oct. 12

- At 1:20 a.m., a complaint about noise was made in the 2600 block of Carpenter.
- A child was reported lost on Carpenter. The child was later located and reunited with his parents.
- A theft was reported in the 2900 block of Hanley.
- A vehicle was reported stolen in the 5100 block of Caniff.
- An assault was reported in the area of Lumpkin and Andrus.
- A fight was reported in the area of Lumpkin and Norwalk.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

- A complaint was made about noise in the 12000 block of Oklahoma.
- A strong-arm robbery and arrest were reported in the 2000 block of Norwalk.
- A business in the 9800 block of Conant reported trouble with a customer.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported in the area of Conant and Carpenter.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the area of Jos. Campau and Evaline. A complaint about an animal was also made in the area of Caniff and Gallagher.
- A business in the 9100 block of Conant reported trouble with a customer.
- An incident of fraud was reported in the 3000 block of Jacob.
- Trespassing was reported in the 2400 block of Botsford.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the area of Edwin and Lumpkin. A complaint about a juvenile was also made in the 11400 block of Conant.
- A domestic fight was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A break-in was reported in the 2000 block of Belmont.

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- A fight was reported in the 8700 block of Jos. Campau.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 3400 block of Holbrook.
- A complaint was made about an animal on Conant.
- An assault was reported on Charest.



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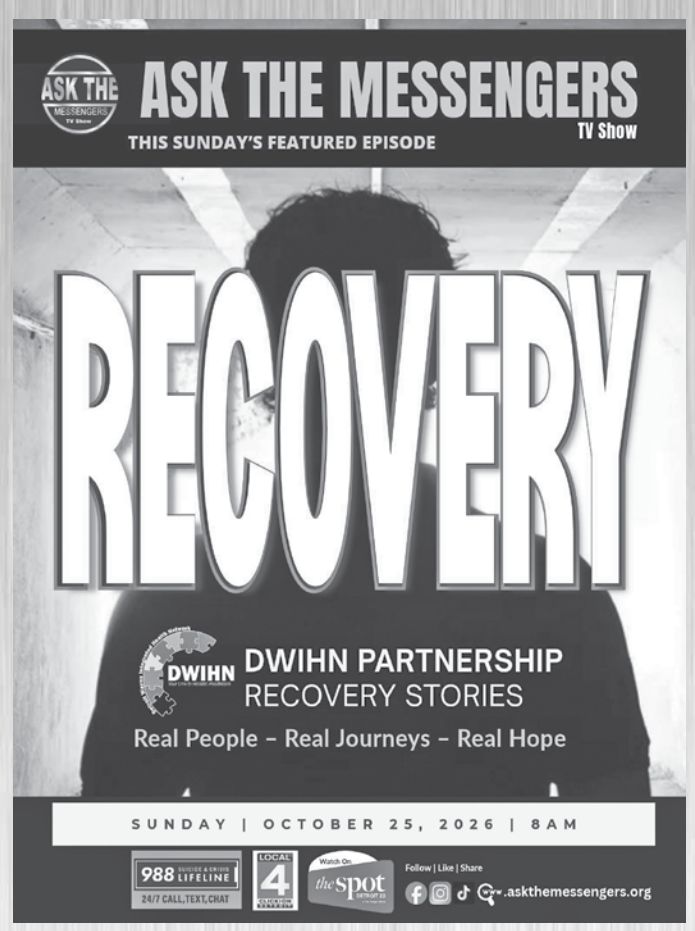
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City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 3

for his legal fees related to the dispute he has over whether to count 37 uncounted ballots from last year's November election.

(Alharbi won that election by 11 votes. The ballots were not initially counted because they were found, unsecured, a day after the election. Alharbi's mayoral opponent, former councilmember Muhith Mahmood, successfully argued they should be counted in court.)

Alharbi said a resolution was "previously passed but didn't have enough votes."

(That vote had been approved by two councilmembers but was later ruled invalid because there wasn't a quorum.)

Alharbi insisted that he was acting in the official capacity as mayor during this legal dispute.

(The lawsuit referenced by Alharbi designates him as an "intervening defendant-appellate." That is legally defined as a person who voluntarily enters a lawsuit as a third party who "was not named as an original party but has a personal stake in the outcome," according to the Legal Information Institute.)

At that point, Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury said: "You're asking the residents to pay?"

Alharbi replied: "It's not mine," referring to the legal fees.

Choudhury continued, saying that the city did not budget for this expense. Alharbi insisted that the city has an $8 million budget surplus.

Asked by Choudhury whether this means his mayoral opponent, Mahmood, will also now demand the city to pay for his legal bills, Alharbi replied: "He wasn't the mayor."

(Alharbi was not the city's official mayor yet either at the time Mahmood started his legal challenge to have the ballots counted.)

Councilmember Mohammed Alsomiri asked to see an invoice for Alharbi's legal bills, but Alharbi said invoices won't be submitted until the council approved paying his legal fees.

The resolution was passed by Councilmembers Choudhury, Abu Musa and Muhtasin Sadman. Councilmember Alsomiri was opposed, and Councilmembers Saed and Mohammed Hassan abstained in voting, but did not provide reasons for their abstentions.

A proposal to accept a federal grant to purchase 10 benches to be placed onto existing planters in the city was approved. The cost of the project is $15,070.

In another grant program, the council OK'd that the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy will cover the extra costs to create "a new soccer/football field, splash pad, skate park, nature playground, cricket batting cages, and running and walking trails, (with) natural features."

The Conservancy is tasked with covering 50 percent of the cost.

The council approved a contract for over $328,000 to pay for enhanced public safety technology that includes bundling:

- Body-worn cameras deployed across 40 officers
- Fleet 3 Advanced in-car video systems installed in 19 patrol vehicles
- An Evidence.com digital evidence management platform with over 10 TB of stored data
- Drone technology

The package also includes "new capabilities," such as

- Prepared 911 and Axon Assist – which provide translations for 911 calls and body cameras for multiple languages in real time (i.e. Arabic, Yemeni Arabic dialect, Bengali, Bosnian and Polish).
- Fuses – real time situational awareness integrating camera feeds and dispatch data.
- AI enabled tools – draft one automated report writing, auto-redaction and workflow automation.

"This program has delivered tangible improvements in officer accountability, incident documentation, and evidence handling. The current body-worn camera contract is set to expire in October 2026.

"Tonight's authorization is necessary to ensure continuity of this program without a lapse in coverage," the council was told.

An Axon representative, Tony Marietti, said: "Technology is the future of policing."

He said that, currently, the Hamtramck department is in the "walk" range of technology advancement, but with this purchase, the department will be "looking at (moving) into the 'run' range" in advancement, and also in "situational awareness."

The first year of the program would be paid for through the department's drug and forfeiture fund, said Chief Farhat, but, after this year, the department will have to incorporate the costs into its regular budget.

Councilmember Hassan said the cost to the city will be "crazy for the general fund," but that he will support the contract.

In another matter, the council approved restricting where sound stages can be located on Jos. Campau and Caniff for festivals – including for the Hamtramck Labor Day Festival.

The changes came at the request of a mosque at that street corner, which had complained about noise interrupting its daily services.

"This will make people happy," said Councilmember Hassan.

A proposal to add an honorific street name for Conant, between Holbrook and Miller, in the name of Sheikh Saleh Algahaim, was tabled for another meeting.

Councilmember Choudhury said the imam is "not just any ordinary person in the community." He said Algahaim has, for decades, helped many families by supplying food for them and finding them housing.

It was not explained why the proposal was postponed, but it came at the behest of Councilmember Musa.

In a lengthy discussion, the council agreed to remove Councilmember Hassan as mayor pro tem, and instead have Councilmember Musa take over that role, which he had previously held until he was removed at the behest of Councilmember Hassan.

Councilmember Choudhury said he did not "understand what is going on. What is the motive doing this? This is the second time this council tried to remove" Hassan from this position.

However, Choudhury conceded that Hassan "has been unprofessional before in the council meetings," and that he "disrespected the residents. Those things may have allowed to have him removed."

Councilmember Saed said Hassan should be removed because he was criminally "indicted in case of fraud. … In the end they gave him (convicted him of) a misdemeanor, which is one-year probation and 80 hours of community service. This does lead to him being unqualified for mayor pro tem because it was bad. …"

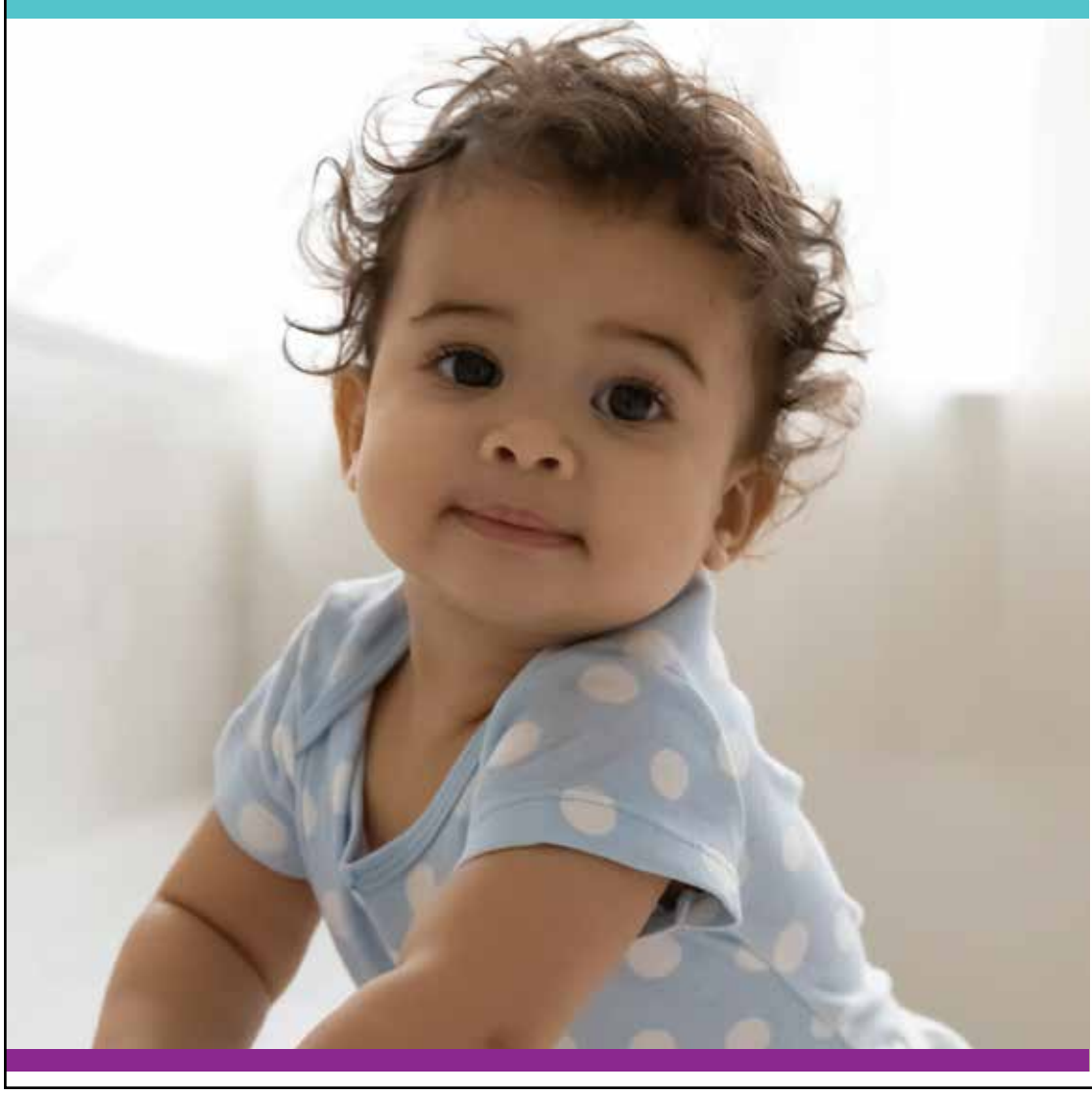
Hassan said that his conviction was "the court decision, and I have to respect it. It was not my decision, and I have done everything by the book. That's all I can say."

Mayor Alharbi reminded Hassan that he has voted in the past to censure fellow councilmembers.

"Sometimes what goes around comes back around," he said. "You've created chaos within council before. It's not something you should be immune, or anybody in council. Even the mayor should not be immune of

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City Hall Insider ...

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any consequences when it comes to you doing something to other fellow councilmen or the mayor."

Those voting to censure Hassan included Councilmembers Choudhury, Saed and Alsomiri, with Councilmembers Hassan and Sadman opposed. Councilmember Musa abstained from voting, but he did not give a reason for that vote.

The council then appointed Councilmember Musa as the new mayor pro tem.

In the mayor's report, Alharbi said he's been talking with representatives from Wayne County Community College to open a branch in Hamtramck, possibly in a storefront on Jos. Campau.

Alharbi said the college may also construct a new building for its classes.

In public comment, Bill Meyer said the council should watch a recording of the meeting to see how they interact with each other.

"You can see all the things that you can improve," Meyer said. "You're not supposed to talk at the same time. … You insult each other sometimes. … So many things went wrong."

As for the habit of councilmembers adding items onto the agenda at the beginning of meetings, Meyer said it's "crazy."

"The public sees here we don't have any idea what you're adding to the meeting agenda," Meyer said.

Mark Koroi questioned the need for the city to continue to purchase hi-tech devices, such as Flock cameras.

"All these new-fangled items that come into the city, how many of them really are needed?" Koroi said.

He added that the council needs to have a "jaundiced eye" when considering whether to purchase these items.

Mayor's city manager lawsuit tossed out by court

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Adam Alharbi struck out in court in his effort to have former city manager Adel Al-Adlani reinstated.

Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Melissa Cox agreed with the city to dismiss Alharbi's lawsuit against his fellow councilmembers.

Alharbi had argued through his own attorney, Nabih Ayad, that the city council violated the city charter by adding a resolution to fire Al-Adlani at the beginning of a council meeting.

Back in June when Al-Adlani was fired by the city council, Alharbi said: "The charter is our city constitution that we must follow. We cannot have elected officials not follow the charter."

Alharbi insists that only he can authorize what goes on the agenda, per the city charter. However, the agenda does allow for additions and deletions to be made to it, and it's been a standing practice for past councils to make additions and deletions to the meeting agenda.

City Attorney Odey Meroueh counter-argued, saying the council has a right to make changes to the agenda, and that the city charter only says the mayor and city manager "establish" the agenda.

"The mayor's case rests on a mistake about which rule applies. He treats the agenda procedure as part of the city charter, but it is actually a council 'standing rule' (Section 30.004).

"The charter says the council sets its own rules of procedure, and a companion rule (Section 30.011) lets the council suspend those rules with a two-thirds vote of the members, not counting the mayor. The council did exactly that – amended its agenda by a recorded vote – and then voted 4 to 2 to terminate the city manager," Meroueh said, back in June.

The council did not state a reason for firing the city manager, who had been on the job for only four months. However, according to sources, Al-Adlani rubbed a number of city hall employees the wrong way.

After Tuesday's court hearing, Meroueh said, in a press release:

"The court agreed with the council that the charter does not give the mayor's office a veto over a council vote. The council respects the mayor and his office; however, on this question the charter is clear, and the court said so."

Alharbi said that although he lost in court, there's a principle at stake:

"When rules like the Open Meetings Act are ignored, and resolutions are dropped onto the agenda at the last minute without advance notice, it robs our residents of the chance to see what is being decided with their tax dollars.

"That kind of ambush governance leads directly to disorder in council chambers. While the court has made its ruling on this filing, the principle remains: city business must be conducted transparently, orderly, and with full respect for the public's right to review the agenda in advance. That is the standard our community deserves, and that remains my commitment."

Alharbi, though, hasn't always protested councilmembers adding on agenda items at the last minute. At his prompting, the council added on a resolution after a closed meeting to pay for Alharbi's legal fees in his fight to prevent 37 uncounted ballots from being tallied in last year's November election.

That resolution initially failed but was approved at a later meeting.

Meroueh said making additions to the council agenda has been standard practice for years.

"Councilmembers have added resolutions to the agenda at the meeting(s) on a regular basis for years, including at several meetings since the mayor filed his lawsuit," Meroueh said.

"The council's position throughout was that establishing an agenda before a meeting does not prevent the council from amending it during the meeting under its own procedural rules."

In the meantime, Syed Aamir Ahsan continues to act as the city's interim city manager, while he also serves as the city's finance director.

The council has created a committee to begin a search for a permanent city manager.

FROM THE OFFICE OF
WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER ERIC R. SABREE



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