DRAFT

MINUTES
Committee on Public Safety
Thursday, September 3, 2026 @ 3:30 p.m.
City Council Conference Room, 10th Floor City Hall

CALL TO ORDER
Council Member Spadafore called the meeting to order at 3:41 p.m.

PRESENT
Council Member Peter Spadafore, Chair
Council Member Adam Hussain, Vice Chair
Council Member Clara Martinez, Member

OTHERS PRESENT
Sherrie Boak, Council Legislative Office Manager
Sunny Miller, OCA
Rawley Van Fossen, EDP
Rebecca Nobles, 6031 S MLK Jr. Blvd.
Meredith Johnson, EDP
Steve Halm
Najah Nona
Leidianna Nona
Luke Thiel, Legislative Analyst
Matt Morgan

MINUTES
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM AUGUST 20, 2026, AS PRESENTED. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

PUBLIC COMMENT
No public comment at this time.

DISCUSSION
RESOLUTION –Orders to Make Safe or Demolish; 6031 S MLK Jr. Blvd.
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.
Council Member Spadafore provided information from Mr. Van Fossen to the Committee that EDP and referred updates, which are included in the packet. This noted progress in funding for the abatement. The recommendation from the department was to continue to table, via Mr. Van Fossen to Council Member Spadafore.

Ms. Nobles noted they had a contractor with a quote with the timeline and breakdown, allowing them to save $70,000 from the earlier quote. The contractor is local and excited to begin the work. The church has raised over $100,000 to date and hoping to get to $275,000. The church is asking for more time to raise the money. Council Member Spadafore asked about a timeline for fundraising, and Ms. Noble stated they do not have that. Council Member Spadafore asked how long they have been fundraising, and Ms. Noble said the initial campaign started in March. There was the Foundation of Hope as well, which brought in $10,000.

Council Member Hussain acknowledged the email from 9/1/2026, and asked about the utilities, noting the email stated BWL has not responded on clearance, and Ms. Noble said they will not give a date until they are ready to demolition. Council Member Hussain asked if there is projected timeline on raising the funds. Ms. Noble stated they are hoping for a 6 months, realistically. Council Member Hussain asked if the contractor would need $175,000 before commencing, and that was confirmed.

The Committee discussed options of moving forward with the MSD or tabling.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO TABLE FOR 60 DAYS, UNTIL THE NOVEMBER 5, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING.

Ms. Noble asked if they get the funds and can start, do they have to come back in. Council Member Spadafore stated they can continue to communicate with Mr. Van Fossen with the updates. It would be on the committee agenda on November 5, 2026, and it can be updated.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

<u>RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish; 1218 Gordon Avenue</u>
MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO REMOVE FROM THE TABLE. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.
Council Member Spadafore stated EDP provide notes to him on updates for this property, which included permits that were pulled, photos of the home showing it has been cleared out. Mr. Van Fossen referred to an email Committee was provided on the official ownership change. The permits were pulled prior to ownership but are their permits, and they have made the right steps. EDP believes that over the next 90 days, there will be evidence to show they are making their home safe.

Ms. Nona introduced herself as the new owner, and was present with her father Najah Nona who is better to speak to the progress on the project.

Council Member Hussain asked about the list and general sense what the department would like to see, and that was already stated.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO TABLE FOR 90 DAYS, UNTIL THE DECEMBER 3, 2026 COMMITTEE MEETING.

Mr. Nanah asked about timing on inspections, and Mr. Van Fossen stated they are 48 hours out on inspections when called in.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

<u>RESOLUTION – Orders to Make Safe or Demolish; 920 Long Blvd.</u>
Council Member Spadafore stated there are no updates, and EDP recommends moving out for 60 day make safe or demolish.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH AT 920 LONG BLVD IN 60 DAYS. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Mr. Halm came to the table to speak on 920 Long Blvd.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO RECONSIDER THE MOTION. MOTION CARRIED3-0.

Mr. Van Fossen stated he has no updates.

Mr. Halm introduced his architect, Matt Morgan and they spoke briefly on their current situation on tearing down 920 Long but work on 940 Long which is structurally attached with a shared wall to 920 Long Blvd.

Mr. Morgan confirmed there was a structural assessment Nederveld and they recommend 920 Long Blvd. to be demolished because it is not structurally safe.

Council Member Spadafore clarified that this hearing was on 920 Long, and asked if they have a cost to demolish both and if so what is that timeline. Mr. Van Fossen clarified that even though these owner representatives speak of two addresses, the city see this as one; two units joined in the middle, and if the owner is proposing tearing down one side only (920 Long Blvd.), it is news to his department at this time.

Mr. Morgan stated they do have contract with a demolition contractor, and is ready to take down the 920 Long Blvd. side. Their idea is to repair the remaining side. Their other option is to tear down both and construct a new building. Council Member Hussain pointed out to Mr. Morgan and Mr. Halm that these negotiating discussions on options should be held with the department and it appears they have not, and he asked why. Mr. Halm stated that his is having issues with communications from the department. Council Member Spadafore noted for the record that this property was red tagged unsafe for a year. Mr. Van Fossen confirmed they have spoken to the owner in the past, but the last time was June. The City boarded up the property and put up a fence because it was unsafe. Council Member Spadafore asked if there was representation at the demolition hearing, and it was confirmed they were not. Mr. Van Vossen confirmed the owner was at the show cause hearing. He continued to state that for the department to consider, they would need to see proof and like to see a proposal before the next meeting on funding and a timeline.

Council Member Spadafore stated he would encourage this move forward out of Committee with a 60 day order, and be before Council on September 14^{th} for action, and if they hear something from EDP before that, he would be willing as Council President to push it out to the next Council meeting.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION FOR 60 DAYS MAKE SAFE OR DEMOLISH FOR 920 LONG BLVD. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

DISCUSSION – Budget Priorities for FY 2027/2028

Council Member Spadafore spoke on his proposed budget priorities

Purpose

This memo asks the Committee on Public Safety to designate $250,000 of the City of Lansing's $1,000,000 State of Michigan Capital City Funding allocation as a budget priority for Fiscal Year 2027–28, directed to the Downtown Clean & Safe Ambassador Program operated by Downtown Lansing Inc. (DLI).

Background

The State of Michigan has provided the City of Lansing with $1,000,000 in Capital City Funding, and Council must determine how this funding will be prioritized in the FY 2027–28 budget. A downtown that is clean, safe, and welcoming is foundational to the City's economic health, and I believe sustaining and expanding proven downtown ambassador, cleaning, and safety services should be one of our priorities for this funding.

Proposed Priority

I am proposing that $250,000 be prioritized in the FY 2027–28 budget to sustain and expand downtown clean, safe, and hospitality services, including:

- Downtown ambassadors providing hospitality and safety presence
- Cleaning and beautification services
- Ongoing maintenance of the downtown district
- Street outreach services
- Coordinated safety services

Prioritizing this funding would allow the City to leverage additional private-sector partner funding, sustaining and expanding services that are already proven to be effective in the downtown business district.

Proposed Budget Priority Summary

Item	Amount
State of Michigan Capital City Allocation (Total)	$1,000,000
Proposed Priority: Downtown Clean & Safe Ambassador Program	**$250,000**
Remaining Balance for Other FY 2027–28 Priorities	$750,000

Recommendation

I recommend that the Committee on Public Safety support designating $250,000 of the City's State of Michigan Capital City Funding as a budget priority for FY 2027–28, directed to the Downtown Clean & Safe Ambassador Program, with the remaining $750,000 to be considered for other capital city priorities in the budget process.

Council Member Hussain asked if this was new or an additional to existing DLI funds, and Council Member Spadafore confirmed this is a new program, and he could ask for more detail from DLI on how they plan to handle this if it goes through.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO ADD COUNCIL MEMBER SPADAFORE BUDGET PRIORITY TO THE BUDGET PRIORITIES. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

Council Member Hussain went through his email on 2 proposed priorities:

> Priority 1: Increase the LFD's personnel budget by $270,000 annually to raise the hiring target from the baseline resolution up to the maximum limit of six new employees per year, ensuring safe ambulance staffing and relieving unsustainable member workloads.
>
> Rationale: Adding a single daily ambulance requires a minimum of 6 full-time employees (ideally 7–8 to account for accrued leave). Reaching the higher hiring target is critical to lowering response times, meeting community demand, and reducing unsustainable workload and burnout among current members.

Priority 2: Target $150,000 to $300,000 toward competitive wage adjustments and retention incentives to stem employee turnover to neighboring departments.

Rationale: Retention is at an all-time low. To stop losing trained staff to neighboring departments offering better pay, benefits, and lighter workloads, the city must address existing working conditions, benefits, and compensation.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO ADD THE TWO PROPOSED PRIORITIES TO THE BUDGET PRIORITIES. MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

The Committee went through the list of Committee budget priorities that were part of the request in 2025 for the 2026/2027 current fiscal year.

MOTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER HUSSAIN TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING TO BE ADDED TO THE BUDGET PRIORITIES

1. $100,000 – Continue funding for Permanent Speed Bumps
2. Continue/Sustain Funding – LFD apprenticeship/internship program
3. 2 additional Code Enforcement Officers
4. Funding for in-field technology for Code Enforcement Officers
5. Funding for (3) LPD officers.

MOTION CARRIED 3-0.

OTHER

Property Updates; 1004 Cady Court, 904 E Kalamazoo, 509 Baker, 5910 S Washington, 6255 Marywood

Council Member Spadafore noted for the Committee that all five (5) of these properties were up for property tax foreclosure, went to the auction in August and were not sold, so will be back up at the 2nd auction on 10/26. Because of that EDP recommends tabling until after that auction, because at that time if not sold, they could come back for right of clam and first right of refusal with the City. Mr. Van Fossen confirmed his office is working with the Landbank on demolition grants and holding continued discussions on these types of cases in the future. Council Member Spadafore noted for the record that all of these properties have come out of Committee already, and been on hold at Council, so he wanted to use this time to update the Committee. He then asked if there was a situation where they will not sell at the next auction. Mr. Van Fossen stated he would then speak to the OCA, but the red tag would stay, and currently the auction package does say “pending make safe or demolish”.

Council Member Spadafore asked for a timeline on how long the demolition process takes and Mr. Van Fossen stated 30-60 days, so the option would be to take to Council on 9/14/2026, reject the resolutions to make safe in a period of time which would then allow Mr. Van Fossen to notify the County Treasurer to remove the label of “pending make safe or demolish” from the property.

Council Member Spadafore noted for the Committee that at their next meeting on September 17, 2026 the ACLU of Michigan will be present with their standard presentation to cities on cameras. The originally planned presentation update on red tagged properties that was requested from Council Member Hussain would be moved to the first meeting in October.

Council member Hussain asked for updated on the 108 S MLK order. Mr. Van Fossen stated there has been some work, they have spoken to owner, the 2nd floor windows are ordered, and ironically while code and building were on site next door they stopped and spoke to the owner on violations and complaints they had on parking on that property. Mr. Van Fossen stated he could do a deeper dive into the project and will report back.

ADJOURN

Adjourned at 4:30 p.m.
Submitted by
Sherrie Boak, Recording Secretary
Lansing City Council
Approved by the Committee on