



City of Detroit Detroit City Council

FROM THE DESK OF
Mary Waters, Member At-Large
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WHEREAS, reliable electric service is what Detroit businesses, consumers, rate payers and elected officials expect and need to survive and thrive in the City of Detroit; and

WHEREAS, the increasing frequency and severity of electric power outages is unacceptable and an indicator of the need for significant infrastructure modernization; and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy has not taken the initiative to modernize the Detroit grid and still uses portions of the old City of Detroit electric distribution infrastructure without providing any compensation to the City of Detroit for use infrastructure now managed by the Detroit Public Lighting Authority; and

WHEREAS, DTE's neglect of the City of Detroit has resulted in Detroit residents subsidizing modern underground electric distribution in the suburbs while living with short-comings of an overhead electric distribution infrastructure so old Thomas Edison would recognize it; and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy's failings in adequately upgrading infrastructure and achieving a level of tree trimming and removal around electric distribution lines is unacceptable as power outages are occurring too frequently and simply last too long; and

WHEREAS, DTE Energy time and again requests the Michigan Public Service Commission approve substantial rate relief at an additional cost to consumers while failing to produce and improvement in the reduction of power outage frequency and severity; and

WHEREAS, since 2015 DTE Electric's rate increase has totaled nearly a billion dollars increasing the average consumers bill more than \$20 per month; and

WHEREAS, the Detroit City Council wants Detroit consumers and DTE investors to both win as a result creation, management and delivery of reliable electric service; and

WHEREAS, while there is evidence that DTE's infrastructure "hardening program" is having a positive impact, their reliability performance remains abysmal; therefore

LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Detroit City Council requests that the Michigan Legislature amend Public Act 286 of 2008 to bring accountability standards for Michigan's electric utilities up to date; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Michigan Legislature and Michigan Public Service Commission refrain from supporting or granting any rate increase request to DTE Energy until there is a performance-based rate structure or accountability plan in place; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that unless there is an improvement in service, the Michigan Public Service Commission and Legislature should hold public hearings on rate reductions for consumers that are in line with national electric service rate averages for utilities of comparable size.