

STATEMENT AFFIRMING MY VOTE FOR THE REVISED VENDING ORDINANCE

Today, after years of research, analysis and due diligence by a designated vending ordinance working group, Detroit City Council discussed and subsequently voted on the revised ordinance. The majority of my colleagues voted in favor of the proposed ordinance. I too voted in favor of its passage.

While the resulting document is not devoid of any and all need for improvement, it nevertheless provides increased opportunities for Detroit residents to become self-sustaining business owners, thereby allowing Detroit residents to further the well being of themselves and their families.

It is widely known and has been nationally recognized that Michigan is the home of the highest rate of unemployment in the nation with a recently reported rate of 7.6%. Additionally, the City of Detroit has an unemployment rate of 22% according to the US Census or almost three times the rate of the State. In 2008, it is expected that the auto industry along with other industries will continue to shed jobs in Michigan.

With 33% of Detroit residents living below the poverty line and 44% of related children under 18 living below the poverty level, current economic conditions demanded that this ordinance be enacted with all deliberate speed. However, I concur with several of my colleagues regarding the need for immediate implementation of amendment recommendations as suggested by the City Planning Commission and fully support the amendments that will certainly ensue.

Dated: January 17, 2008