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The Review

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Quick Hits

August was a busy month for city museum

By Alan Madlane

For a smaller museum – although, one that is always growing, in one way or another – the Hamtramck Historical Museum (HHM) is one busy institution.

Take the week of Aug. 13 through Aug. 16. A normally sleepy time for many, as people were off traveling, enjoying their cabins, shopping madly for the kids’ back-to-school stuff, or watching the Tigers in a pennant chase.

But the HHM was busier than you’d guess.

On Aug. 13, museum representatives were down on the Detroit Riverfront at The Icon building, taking part in the first day of the Teaching Diverse Histories Summit.

They had a table set up there, with some information about the museum, and even a few artifacts along for the ride. There was said to be a lot of interest in the museum, especially for the tours that the museum helps arrange.

The next day, on Aug. 14, the museum took part in Day 3 of the summit, where Boardmember Joe Strazalka co-presented – alongside David Hales of the Historical Society - on the topics of partnering for Michigan History Day: how it functions and how it impacts a museum like HHM.

The following day saw museum staffers head over to a professional development session at Dickinson West Elementary School, on an invite from Hamtramck Public Schools (HPS). There, a presentation was made on the city’s history, then museum staff took some questions and met one-to-one with a few of the school’s teachers.

One teacher suggested a presentation on the city’s African-American history, which got the museum reps to thinking about putting one together.

Saturday, Aug. 16 was a Clean-Up Day at the museum. Though turnout was small, perhaps

Continued on page 4

— HAMTRAMCK’S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

Federal court puts an end to lawsuit over pride flag

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck’s pride flag dispute has been settled – at least, legally.

This week, Federal Court Judge David M. Lawson dismissed a lawsuit, filed by two former members of the Hamtramck Human Relations Commission, who were seeking to overturn the city’s ban on displaying a pride flag on public property.

In the 12-page opinion, the judge basically ruled that the city has the right to control what flags are displayed.

City Attorney Odey Meroueh said the ruling “confirms that Hamtramck has the right to decide what it communicates on its own property.”

He added: “The Court’s decision vindicates Mayor Amer Ghalib and the City Council for adopting a neutral policy that treats every group and every viewpoint the same. ... This case was about neutral rules, fair enforcement, and responsible city governance, not about suppressing anyone’s speech.”

Former Human Relations Chairman Russ Gordon could not be reached for comment.

Gordon and fellow commissioner Catrina Stackpoole defied a city council resolution banning the display of pride flags by raising one on one of the Jos. Campau flagpoles, which are city property.

They were then fired from their non-paid volunteer roles on the commission.

Stackpoole said that, while the lawsuit is over, the debate will continue.

“Disappointed and sad that the court refused to see the underlying motive



A federal court has ruled that the city has the right to ban the display of a pride flag on public property, which would now include what these residents were doing a few years ago in Zussman Park, located across from city hall.

was religion,” Stackpoole said.” The case may be over in the court but not over in the court of public opinion.”

The all-male and all-Muslim city council and mayor took issue with the pride flag display because it offended some in the community, claiming the flag promoted homosexuality.

The pride flag represents gay pride.

The flag had been flown in Zussman Park during Pride Month in June, and also on one Jos. Campau flagpole for two years prior to the ban.

The city council and mayor, in response to Hamtramck’s conservative community, took an official action against the pride flag in a resolution passed in 2022, which stated, in part, that the ban was an act of showing “neutrality.”

Hamtramck’s council resolution allows only the American, state, city and Prisoner of War flags, as well as the flags that represent the international character of the city’s residents – many of whom are

immigrants, or sons and daughters of immigrants, from various countries in the world.

The ban on pride flags prompted a protest in Zussman Park, across from city hall, where the state’s top law enforcer, Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel, spoke out in protest.

Nessel, who is gay, called the ban a “national embarrassment.”

During a three-hour council meeting that led to the pride flag ban, then-city-councilmember Nayeem Choudhury, who is seeking to return to service on council in this November’s election, didn’t hide that the resolution was based, in part, on religion.

“...We have to respect the religions. We have to respect the people around here. Schools, mosques, churches,” Choudhury said.

Choudhury also said that the LGBTQ community, which the pride flags represent, is welcomed in other ways.

“You guys are welcome to the community. You guys (are) welcome to walk to the restaurants, walk to the grocery store,” Choudhury said.

“Why do we have to have a flag flown in the city property to be represented? You’re already represented. We already know who you are, and we don’t have any hate or any discrimination against that. We get along very well.”

Back in 2024, Mayor Amer Ghalib dismissed the lawsuit and the fuss about pride flags as coming from supporters of former mayor Karen Majewski and the prior administration.

He said that this is “another unnecessary distraction by the former power structure that doesn’t like to see the city moving forward. Good things are happening for the first time in decades, such as budget surplus and infrastructure repair.”

“This exposes the former egregious leadership’s failure; therefore they want to constantly create obstacles on our way.”

Police chief is officially fired

By Charles Sercombe

Back in May of 2024, Hamtramck welcomed – with open arms and much fanfare – the hiring of Police Chief Jamiel Altaheri.

He came here after retiring from the New York Police Department, having served over 20 years there.

Altaheri was the first Yemeni-American to be appointed to the position, and also one of the few outsiders hired as police chief. Most of those who have served as police chief rose through the ranks of the Hamtramck Police Department – and, in fact, outsiders were generally met with suspicion and resentment.

But things had greatly changed in the department, with many new, fresh faces without family connections to the department.

Altaheri was sworn into office in an outside ceremony, held across from city hall in Zussman Park.

Many Yemeni-Americans from here and Dearborn attended the ceremony, where Altaheri was given a rock-star welcome. In the year-plus that he served, Altaheri initiated a number of community outreach programs, earning him widespread praise.

Flash forward to recent months, and Altaheri finds himself fired from the position by the very people who initially championed his hiring: the mayor and city council.

The Review reached out to Altaheri for comment, but he did not respond.

During his brief tenure here, Chief Altaheri oversaw an infusion of racial-ly and ethnically diverse hirings, including women, into the department.

Altaheri also began a series of podcast interviews, called “The Chief’s Corner,” with local residents and business owners, that aired on social media.

And he was praised for starting a youth police academy here.

The chief’s downfall, after an internal investigation that included secretly-made recordings, revealed someone with an apparent dual personality, with one side making the department more community-oriented, and another that dealt in a number of alleged wrongdoings – some that may border on criminal.

According to an internal investigation conducted by the law firm Miller Johnson, the following accu-

Continued on page 4



Bengali-American comic Usama Siddiquee is headline a fundraiser tonight (Sept. 12) in Lansing for the organization Progress Michigan.

Bengali-American headlines fundraiser for community-based cause

By Alan Madlane

Like to have a good laugh, while helping a worthy cause?

Progress Michigan bills itself as a communications team and media hub for the entire progressive community. The organization also says its goal is to “work with communities to build a more inclusive, equitable and sustainable Michigan.”

And they have engaged Bangla-American comic Usama Siddiquee as the headline act of a Stand

Up for Progress event being held tonight, Friday, Sept. 12, in Lansing at the Venue, 5660 W. Saginaw Hwy., beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets start at \$39.19 and go to \$108.55. They are available through Eventbrite.com.

The evening will open with fellow comic Prenav Behari, who was a former MAD Magazine writer with acting roles on Law and Order: SVU, The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel, and

Continued on page 2



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Bengali-American headlines fundraiser for community-based cause

Continued from front page

Daredevil: Born Again.

As for headliner Siddiquee, his press release says, well, if not “it all,” certainly quite a bit about him. I’ll let them do the talking:

“Usama Siddiquee (formerly known as “Usama Bin Laughin”) is a Bengali-American stand-up comedian and actor based in New York. Known for his high-energy, sharp and personal comedy, Usama’s act dives into topics like family, sex, religion, and cultural identity with rapid-fire wit and charisma.

“He has appeared on Netflix’s *Inventing Anna*, HBO’s *And Just Like That*, Comedy Central’s *Awkwafina Is Nora from Queens*, and FX’s *Better Things*. In 2024, he released a 30-minute special with *Don’t Tell Comedy*.

“Usama was featured on America’s *Got Talent* (2020), selected as a New Face at *Just For Laughs* (2018), and is a regular at the world-famous *Comedy Cellar*. His TV debut was on BET’s *50 Central*, with other appearances on *DeSus & Mero*, *MTV News*, and *Cash Cab*.

“He’s won numerous comedy festivals, including the *Laughing Devil Cup* (2016), *Yonkers Comedy Festival* (2015), and *Make*

Me Laugh Albany (2015), and was a finalist in both the *NBC Standup* and *New York’s Funniest* competitions in 2017. He has also been featured in content from *NBC*, *Buzzfeed*, *Refinery29*, *Mic*, *FusionTV*, and *HuffPost*.”

We’re just going to come right out and bludgeon the obvious here: That’s a heck of a resume.

Resumee?

Any-wee, we were able to send him a few questions via email, and he was kind enough to take the time to answer them.

So, without further ado, here’s the nitty-gritty of our little email confab:

The Review: Let’s start with catching up those who might not be familiar with you, or your work. How do we properly pronounce your name? Phonetics would be ideal. Rhymes are also fun.

Usama Siddiquee: Hi! My name is Usama (no relation). Last name is Siddiquee, like Sid-ee-key.

The Review: Briefly, what is the journey that led you into the comedy field to begin with? Are there other Bengali comedians that paved the way before you?

Siddiquee: I was going to do medical school in Texas. The day before I left, I was like ‘why not take a gamble, and pursue stand-up comedy in NYC?’ So I just went with the impulse and, 10 years later, here I am.

So many amazing South Asian comics paved the way before me: Russell Peters, Hasan Minhaj, Paul Varghese in Dallas.

Bengalis are new to the scene, but Shafi Hossain is amazing! Zubi Ahmed is also incredible, paving her own way in NYC!

The Review: Are there any particular challenges you’ve felt as a Bengali-American comic?

Siddiquee: Comedy should be one of those universal unifiers of us all, but this is a pretty polarized climate.

Usually, if you come with love, everything sorts itself out. Sure, there might be racism, or “insular” clubs, but if you just put your heart into the jokes and treat people with respect on- and off-stage, everything falls into place.

The Review: Are there any subjects you won’t take a shot at, or is it pretty much all fair game for you?

Siddiquee: Never! It’s all fair game, just make it funny and come with good energy. If you (don’t), it’ll show in the bit.

The Review: How, being focused in New York, did you get hooked up with Progress Michigan?

Siddiquee: People know people who know people. ;)

The Review: Will you do any other shows while you are in the area?

Siddiquee: No, just this one. Come out, people!

The Review: Given our large Bangladeshi community here in Hamtramck, might you have any contacts or connections here?

Siddiquee: My dad probably knows every single Bangladeshi in the area, and will tell me to go to their houses for food after the show, one by one.

The Review: Anything coming up for you that you’d especially like to plug, outside of this show?

Siddiquee: Just follow my Instagram: @UsamaS-standsUp

The Review: Please add anything else you’d like to, including any final thoughts about life, love or the pursuit of the almighty laugh...

Siddiquee: Stand-up comedy is the most fun I’ve ever had in my life, and I’m truly blessed that people are coming out for the show. It’s a genuinely beautiful thing.

That being said: Uncles and aunties, don’t be weird in the crowd. Come to laugh! I might joke about some topics you might not agree with; just enjoy it! LOL.

Much thanks Usama, and here’s hoping you set some kind of Progress Michigan fundraising record!



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September 12, 2025

This week at the Library . . .

Jazz Youth Masterclasses: Library is holding preservation of jazz youth masterclasses every Thursday in September from 3 pm to 5 pm. Classes are conducted by Jazz vocalist, Sky Covington and are free to Hamtramck residents. To register for classes sign up at the library or call 248-383-3385 to speak with the instructor. The final meeting will consists of a performance on September 25th at 3 pm.

John F. Kennedy: On September 12, 1953 Kennedy at age of 36 married Jacqueline Bouvier, age 24, in a ceremony before 750 invited guests at St. Mary’s Church in Newport, Rhode Island, conducted by Archbishop Richard Cushing of Boston.

Khrushchev: Nikita Khrushchev was elected First Secretary of the Central Committee of Communist Party of the USSR on September 12, 1953.

Yoga at the Library: The exercise program featuring Yoga will start again on Tuesday’s at 2:30 pm starting September 2, 2025. The class is limited to 10 participants, so please register early to secure your place.

ESL Classes: These classes are held Monday to Thursday at 9 am and 12 noon. To participate, you must register with the Horizon School.

Federal Capital: On September 13, 1788, the U.S. Congress chose New York city as the Federal Capital of the new American government.

Battle of Fort Henry: On September 13, 1814 in the Baltimore Harbor, British begun this battle, observed by Francis Scott Key aboard a ship. He watched the British attack overnight and at dawn saw the American flag still flying over the fort, inspiring him to write the verses which were later coupled with the tune of a popular drinking song and became the U.S. National Anthem in 1931.

Messiah: On September 14, 1741 composer George Frederick Handel finished this composition after working on it nonstop for 23 days.

James Fenimore Cooper: This American novelist, historian and social critic was born on September 15 1789 in Burlington, New Jersey. Best known for “The Last of the Mohicans”.

Agatha Christie: This British mystery author was born on September 15, 1890 in Torquay, England. She wrote nearly a hundred books including mysteries, Dramas, poetry and nonfiction.

Mavflower: This ship departed England bound for America on September 16, 1620. It carried 102 passengers and a small crew/ The ship reached Provincetown, Massachusetts on November 21, and disembarked at Plymouth on December 26th.

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
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Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

City government is in need for a reset

The resignation of City Councilmember Khalil Refai from his position of Mayor Pro Tem, and his eventual leaving of the council, underscores one thing.

And that is, this city council is a joke.

How?

Consider that two other councilmembers are facing election fraud charges, and another two are under investigation for not being residents of the city.

The situation is one of chaos.

On top of that, they needlessly threw the city into turmoil by firing the city manager for what can be best described as dubious reasoning.

Predictably, there is now a pending lawsuit filed by the now ex-city manager.

The mess Hamtramck is now in underscores that the myth of this being a unified council is nothing more than just that: a myth. This city council will possibly go down in history as being one of the most corrupt and inept councils – and, trust us, that is no small feat, considering some of the past councils.

Unfortunately, we see no end to the game-playing by some councilmembers for the rest of this term. Fortunately, we'll have some new faces on council in January, and a new mayor.

Hamtramck desperately needs a reset. In the meantime, we expect only more chaos in the weeks to come.

The city has survived rougher times, but it's a shame that, once again, we find ourselves suffering for the actions of a few.

And the repercussions of their actions may still be felt, long after they're gone.

Crime Watch: Two dead in housing project shooting, robbery suspects nabbed

By Charles Sercombe

The pre-Labor Day week was not much of a holiday in some neighborhoods.

Two weeks ago, Hamtramck police reported a high number of domestic assaults, disorderly people, fights, thefts, gun shots, reckless drivers and, on Friday, two people were found dead after being shot.

And on one of the days, at about 12:30 a.m., a person on Grayling was shot during a robbery. Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call (313) 800-5280.

Police are still investigating this incident. No further details were released. The victim is still hospitalized, and is awaiting surgery on his leg.

And then later in the week, on a Friday, a shooting happened in the 12000 block of Dyar, in an apartment in the Col. Hamtramck housing project.

According to various reports, it appears the shooting was the result of a domestic issue. A man reportedly shot a woman, and then turned the gun on himself.

Social media is reporting that the woman is Brianna Frame, 24, who was shot by an ex-partner, who is the father of their 10-month-old daughter.

There is an online fundraiser for the daughter on GoFundMe, search for "Support Brianna's Family After Tragic Loss."

The housing project has long been the scene of any number of police calls responding to fights, domestic assaults, break-ins and rowdy behavior.

Last week was no exception, as the department responded to a number of calls from households there.

Some elderly residents who live there told The Review that fights and assaults happen frequently, and that a number of young people feel like they have no future ahead of them.

"All they care about is marijuana," said one resident, who asked not to be identified. "They feel that they have no future."

The previous shooting incident at the projects happened back in May, when a teen shot two other teens, both of whom managed to survive.

It was said that the shooter shot the two after being beaten up by one of them.

And in the breaking news department, Hamtramck police announced the arrest of two armed robbery suspects.

Here's the statement the police department issued:

"On Sept. 9, an armed robbery occurred in the area of Casmere and McDougall at approximately 6:30 p.m. Within two hours of the crime, Hamtramck Police arrested two juveniles in connection with the armed robbery. During the arrest, property belonging to the victims and a handgun were recovered from the suspects.

"The juveniles were transferred to the Wayne County Juvenile Detention Center pending prosecution. The Detective Bureau is investigating to determine if the duo may be involved in any other crimes in our city."



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Odds & Ends

City Council suspense... Our city council sure has attracted a lot of attention lately – mostly the negative kind.

But at Tuesday's council meeting, it was agreed, without a fight or fuss, to appoint Councilmember Abu Musa as Mayor Pro Tem.

And that's despite an ongoing investigation by the state police over whether he is truly a resident of the city.

Musa denies the accusation that he is not a resident.

Oh, and he's also been caught on city hall's surveillance camera of a drop box, handing numerous absentee ballots to a driver he is seated next to.

But again, he denies any wrongdoing.

Anyway, he replaces Councilmember Khalil Refai, who resigned as Mayor Pro Tem in protest over his fellow councilmembers voting to fire City Manager Max Garbarino.

Refai also has said he will be stepping down from council sometime in the future. Or perhaps he already has, because he was not at Tuesday's council meeting.

Nor was Councilmember Muhith Mahmood, who is seeking to be elected as mayor in November's election.

Mahmood is also under investigation by the state police for not being a resident, and he, too, denies the allegation.

In the meantime, Mayor Amer Ghalib was absent from the meeting because he got called to the White House to talk about bringing in foreign investment to the country.

We'll have more on all this next week.

him something of an enduring hometown hero, for sure.

After all, have you managed to get any plate appearances for the Tige's? Yeah – us neither.

So if you want to see Ike gently roasted by some other names you'll recognize if you're a Tigers fan, you'll want to read Dave "Mez" Mesrey's Facebook post about the roast, which is happening Saturday, Sept. 13, info reprinted here in more-or-less its entirety:

"Warren VFW Post 9021:

"Join us for an unforgettable night of love and laughter (Sept. 13) as we roast former Detroit Tiger and Hamtramck sports legend Ike Blessitt.

"Special guests include former Detroit Tigers Jake Wood, Juan Berenguer, Barbaro Garbey, Marvin Lane, Craig Monroe, and Jon Warden.

"Tickets start at \$100 and include food, drink, and music. Proceeds benefit Ike's Hitting Academy #22.

"Guests are encouraged to RSVP..For tickets and more information, contact Tracy Kirby at (313) 739-7982 or at Tracy.CommunityCollective@gmail.com.

"He's number 22 in our programs, but number 1 in our hearts: The Blessed One, Ike Blessitt!"

It should be a memorable night, filled with laughs and plenty of good memories for any local Tigers fan.

Calling all volunteers...

Your local repository for all things local history, the Hamtramck Historical Museum, needs you.

They are having an introductory meeting for prospective volunteers, on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 1-2 p.m. at the museum, 9525 Jos. Campau at Norwalk.

In general, museum volunteers may be asked to perform a variety of tasks helpful to the museum, such as working the front desk, sorting or organizing files or parts of the collection, giving tours, working at special events, or other light duties.

They ask for a monthly commitment of three hours, at minimum. You just have to attend an introductory meeting such as the one listed above,

and then fill out a simple application through their website.

Persons pursuing a degree in history, archaeology, anthropology, or related fields might especially find this a useful add-on to their future resumes.

You can learn more about these opportunities at hamtramckhistory@gmail.com.

Fowling for dollars...

We'll be posting a reminder about this next week, before it actually transpires, but for now we'll just let you know about it: Fowling Warehouse is teaming up with Detroit Friendship House for a charity-thon to help curtail hunger on Saturday, Sept. 20 from 1-4 p.m. at the warehouse, 3901 Christopher St., Detroit 48211.

They promise some great prizes, donated by the likes of the Detroit Lions and Red Wings, Third Man Records, The Whitney Restaurant, The Detroit Shoppe and Better Made Snacks.

"Help us knock down hunger!" they challenge.

To either register your own team of four, or else sign on to be placed on a team as a free agent, go to detroitfriendship-house.org and find their "Events" folder.

And if participating in the event makes you hungry afterward, well hey, you're just a hop, skip and jump away from some pretty darned good Hamtramck eateries.



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Police chief is officially fired

Cont. from front page

sations were looked into, and we reprint verbatim:

Destroying evidence and obstructing the investigation

When Altaheri was placed on administrative leave by Garbarino, one of Altaheri's first reactions after leaving Garbarino's office was to wipe his City-issued phone. Altaheri directed an evidence technician (and Altaheri's friend) to erase the data on his phone. The technician immediately did so. Altaheri's directive to destroy evidence violated multiple City policies.

Driving his City-issued vehicle after consuming alcohol

The investigation substantiated a widely known instance of Altaheri driving recklessly in his City-issued truck after consuming alcohol.

The evidence established that, on September 19, 2024, after attending an officer appreciation party and consuming alcohol, Altaheri drove to and from a strip club, with other officers riding with him, in his City-issued truck.

He activated his police lights to run red lights and drove erratically. Multiple witnesses observed him consuming significant amounts of alcohol and/or appearing inebriated before driving that night. Multiple officers also wit-

nessed him driving recklessly.

Videos of his driving taken that night confirm their account, including showing Altaheri activating his police lights to run a red light and then immediately turning off his lights after he drove through the intersection with no plausible legitimate justification.

In addition to this significant incident, the investigation revealed other likely instances in which Altaheri consumed alcohol before driving his City-issued truck.

Reducing another officer's discipline in exchange for the destruction of evidence

The video of Altaheri's reckless driving also gave rise to another violation of HPD's rules and regulations. A few months after the reckless driving incident, it was discovered that an HPD officer had committed timecard fraud. The officer, however, had a copy of the reckless driving video.

During the officer's recorded disciplinary hearing, the officers should have been terminated or forced to resign in lieu of termination for timecard fraud, and Altaheri concluded as much.

However, prior to the hearing's conclusion, Altaheri and the other officers involved in the disciplinary proceeding went off the record and met in a hallway to discuss the officer's corrective action further. During that hallway conversation, Altaheri agreed to a lesser penalty in exchange for the officer deleting the reckless driving video.

Altaheri then came back on the record and changed the resignation in lieu of termination (as previously negotiated) to a 30-day suspension.

Because the evidence demonstrated that Altaheri's decision to reduce the severity of the discipline was influenced by his desire for the officer to destroy compromising evidence against him, Altaheri's conduct violated HPD's rules and regulations.

Handing a loaded gun to a civilian and instructing her to put it to someone's head

The evidence also substantiated the allegation that Altaheri handed a loaded gun to a civilian volunteer and told her to put it to someone's head.

A recording of that incident was previously released publicly, and is now the subject of local news articles. An officer who witnessed the event – and who quickly took the gun away from the volunteer – confirmed that the recording was accurate and that Altaheri handed the gun to the civilian volunteer.

During the investigation, Altaheri largely confirmed the facts but claimed that it was a joke. Whether or



By Charles Sercombe

This week's Crime Log covers Sept. 2-8.

Tuesday, Sept. 2

- A suspect was arrested for armed robbery in the 3300 block of Comstock.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A loose dog was reported on Trowbridge and on Poland.

Wednesday, Sept. 3

- At a little after midnight, a person in the 2400 block of Grayling was shot, and was later treated for injuries.
- Officers located a stolen license plate in the area of Jos. Campau and Andrus.
- A theft was reported in the 11300 block of Fleming.

- A fight was reported in the area of Dyar and Circle Dr.

- A pedestrian was struck by a vehicle at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.

Thursday, Sept. 4

- Officers recovered a stolen vehicle in the area of Carpenter and Dequindre, and arrested a suspect.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Gallagher.

Friday, Sept. 5

- A break-in was reported in the 12000 block of Dequindre.
- A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Dyar.

- A hit-and-run accident happened at Holbrook and Conant.

- Break-ins were reported in the 12000 block of Dequindre, and in the 12000 block of Dyar.

- A hit-and-run accident was reported on Caniff.

- Reckless drivers were reported near Edwin.

- An assault was reported at Lumpkin and Norwalk.

Saturday, Sept. 6

- Officers responded to a call about a young child who was without a parent in the area of Trowbridge and Gallagher.

- A complaint was also made about juveniles disrupting traffic on Jos. Campau near Evaline.

- A reckless driver was reported on Holbrook.

Sunday, Sept. 7

- Gunshots were reported in the 1900 block of Trowbridge.

- A suspect was arrested on Edwin for trespassing, and for obstruction.

- A lost child was reported in the 11700 block of Sobieski.

- An armed robbery was reported in the 11500 block of Lumpkin.

- An incident of indecent exposure was reported in the 3100 block of Carpenter.

Monday, Sept. 8

- A suspect was arrested on Trowbridge for an assault.

- A hit-and-run accident was reported at Jos. Campau and Evaline.

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

owing to the intense heat of the day, volunteers still made progress on several fronts of organizing on the main floor: bookshelves were arranged in the front cubicle, cleaning

supplies were organized, and the Bangladeshi exhibit was taken down.

Also on that day, the museum got a donation of a large scanner from the Ukrainian American Archives & Museum, and Sarah attended a meeting with the Waawiyata-nong Arts Council.

Notice of Public Hearing – City of Hamtramck

Planning Commission

NOTICE is hereby given that the City of Hamtramck Planning Commission will meet in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall (3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212) on Wednesday, October 1st, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. for the purpose of holding a public hearing and considering the request pertaining to the following property:

- 8842 Joseph Campau, Hamtramck, MI 48212, parcel number 41 005 08 0008 000

Applicant Socatra 1 LLC is requesting special land use approval of the property for an event hall, subject to subject to \$155.185 and \$155.187 of the Hamtramck Code of Ordinances. Current use is Central Business District per \$155.066.

Written comments may be submitted to the Assistant Community & Economic Development Manager via email at mmiszczak@hamtramck. Written comments will be accepted until 12:00 p.m. on October 1, 2025. The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids, and services for individuals with disabilities at the public hearing upon advance notice by writing or by calling the Clerk's Office at 313-800-5233 x821. Please contact the Clerk's office at least 10 days in advance.

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September 12, 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?

Councilman Abu Musa elected Mayor Pro Tem

ESL Classes start a new school year at the library

Hamtramck Labor Day Parade 2025

Termination of Hamtramck City Manager by Council

Sakura Japanese Instrumental Group Concert

Special Meeting of the City Council 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.

Hamtramck Public TV is broadcasting from Hamtramck Public Library

On Comcast Channel 19 and streaming on YouTube Live (24/7) Google "Hamtramck Public TV", and click on link "Hamtramck Public TV"

Or go to YouTube; Hamtramck Public TV; Hamtramck Public Library; Videos, or Live

To place community announcement call the Library at 313-733-6822

Or email: HamtramckTV@gmail.com

Announcements submitted by 10 am

Will go on air the same day (evening)

To upload video files go to (bit.ly/hamtramcktv)

Continued on page 5

Request for Proposals (RFP): Video Production Services

Issued by Hamtramck Public Schools on behalf of the Stronger Connections Consortium

Hamtramck Public Schools is accepting proposals from qualified **video production companies** to develop and execute a multi-video campaign focused on improving K–12 student attendance throughout **Wayne County**. This project is funded by the **Stronger Connections Grant** and seeks to address the urgent issue of **chronic absenteeism**, which currently affects approximately **43%** of students across the county.

The goal of the campaign is to produce a series of **high-quality, short-form videos** that will promote consistent school attendance in a **positive, culturally responsive, and community-driven way**.

Scope of Work

The selected production company will be responsible for the **end-to-end development** of the campaign, including but not limited to:

- Creative planning and concept development
- Casting and coordination of local talent and influencers
- Full-service video production, including filming and editing
- Content creation in multiple formats (15 seconds to 2 minutes in length)
- Development of a media strategy for distribution across digital platforms, school networks, and community channels
- Coordination with Hamtramck Public Schools and consortium members to ensure alignment with district goals and timelines

Videos will be distributed over the **2025–2026 school years** using a layered release approach. The messaging must be **uplifting, motivating, and relatable** to both students and families, with a focus on cultural relevance and accessibility.

About the Project

This campaign is part of the Stronger Connections initiative, aimed at supporting positive school climates and equitable student success. Through creative storytelling and community collaboration, Hamtramck Public Schools seeks to make consistent school attendance a shared value and priority across all communities in Wayne County.

Budget

The available budget for this project is **up to \$50,000**, which must cover:

- Planning and pre-production
- Talent and influencer fees
- Production and post-production
- Delivery of final video assets in appropriate formats
- Initial public distribution
- Media strategy support

Qualifications

Interested vendors should demonstrate:

- A strong portfolio of similar campaign or educational work
- Experience working with diverse communities, particularly in urban school environments
- The capacity to manage full-scope video campaigns from concept through final delivery
- Knowledge of culturally sensitive messaging and inclusive production practices

Familiarity with the **Hamtramck community**, including its **Arab-American and Muslim populations**, will be considered a valuable asset. Proximity to and experience working in Hamtramck will be viewed favorably.

Submission Instructions

Prospective vendors must:

- **Attend the mandatory information session**
 - Date: **Thursday, September 18, 2025**
 - Time: **2:30 p.m.**
 - Location: **3201 Roosevelt Ave, Hamtramck, MI 48212**
 - Purpose: Project overview and vendor Q&A
- **Note eligibility**
 - Only vendors in attendance will be eligible to submit a proposal
- **Submit a final proposal**
 - Deadline: **4pm, Monday, October 06, 2025**
 - Detailed proposal requirements will be provided during the information session

Police chief is officially fired

Continued from page 4

not Altaheri was “joking,” as he has claimed, the evidence shows that he created a serious danger in handing a loaded firearm to an untrained civilian volunteer in a crowded room.

Further, Altaheri’s contention that the firearm was unloaded is implausible given the available evidence, and even handing an unloaded gun to the civilian in that setting would violate HPD policies.

Pressuring officers to help him in a custody dispute

At least five 911 calls prompted HPD officers to respond to the residence that Altaheri shared with the mother of his two-year-old son.

There is evidence reflecting that in one instance, Altaheri suggested that officers conduct an investigation at the residence in a way that would be favorable to his position in a dispute over custody of his son.

On September 19, 2024 (the same night as the driving incident described above), officers responded to the house following a 911 hang-up call on which Altaheri and the woman can be heard arguing. Altaheri then apparently left the residence and arrived back at the house, giving the appearance that he was not at home when the 911 call was placed.

The police observed that the woman's foot was injured, and the officers treated the call like a medical incident. Altaheri, however, told the officers to investigate her for drug use, conveying to three of them that he was hoping to use what they found (and any resulting police report) to gain custody of his son.

Two of the four officers thought that she might be intoxicated, but none of them believed there was a basis to investigate her for drug activity. Altaheri then told one of the officers to write the police report in a way that would be as vague as possible while helping him build his custody case.

The police report described the woman’s eyes as “glossy, bloodshot, and ... not to react to light,” while omitting any mention of Altaheri’s presence during the incident.

In using his inherent power as Police Chief for personal benefit in this fashion, Altaheri violated HPD’s rules and regulations.

Violating policies and procedures regarding

stolen property

The investigation substantiated that Altaheri participated in the recovery of a vehicle that had been reported as stolen without following standard police practices and procedures. The vehicle, an expensive Mercedes Benz, was in the possession of one of Altaheri’s acquaintances.

Altaheri persuaded the acquaintance to turn over the car voluntarily to one of Altaheri’s longtime friends from New York. Adamczyk and two civilians – one a convicted felon – participated in the effort to recover the car and transport it to New York.

Although there were differing accounts as to whose idea this escape was, with Altaheri and Adamczyk pointing fingers at each other, it is undisputed that both of them participated in the conduct and failed to follow basic police procedures governing the recovery of a stolen car.

Violating other policies and procedures

The evidence obtained during the investigation also revealed that Altaheri gave Adamczyk unfettered access to his electronic signature and to at least one of his City-issued email accounts in violation of HPD policies. Altaheri’s conduct during two meetings in May 2025, one of which was recorded, also included physical and verbal threats that violated HPD’s rules and regulations.

Unsubstantiated allegations

The investigation did not confirm or dispel the allegation that Altaheri committed domestic violence and did not substantiate the allegation that he misused his authority as Police Chief to cover up acts of domestic violence. The investigation also did not uncover evidence that Altaheri improperly solicited money from a local towing company operator.

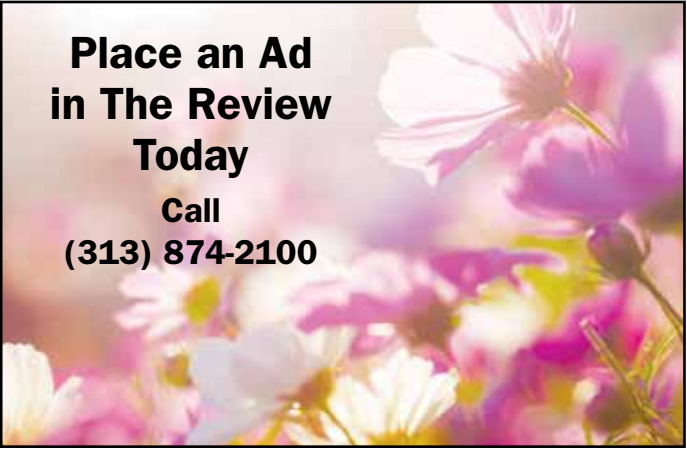
So where does this leave the police department?

As of now, Deputy Police Chief Andy Mileski is in charge of the department. There has been no word on whether a new chief will be hired, or whether Mileski will remain in the post permanently.

In the meantime, steps are being taken to also fire a police investigator who is connected with the internal investigation. That officer is part of a union, so there are specific steps the city has to take to begin the process of firing.

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