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Volume 9 No. 21  
**May 26, 2017**  
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# The Review

## Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

Have a great Memorial Day weekend, everyone.

If you have spare time, and before you spark up the barbecue grills, consider attending a special Mass and ceremony on Monday, May 29 – which is this Monday – to honor the sacrifices of our veterans.

Church service will be at Our Lady Queen of Apostles on Conant, starting at 10 a.m. After the special Mass, a reception will be held at PLAV Post 10 on Jos. Campau.

If you can’t make the church service, be sure to stop by for the reception and raise a toast in honor of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice to our country.

The event is organized by the Hamtramck Allied Veterans Council, with the help of several local veterans organizations.

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —



## City budget meeting erupts into shouting, ends with treasurer’s exit

By Charles Sercombe

What is usually a routine matter in putting together the city’s annual budget turned into anything but that on Saturday morning.

Saturday’s discussion in city hall with the city manager and city council took a sudden and unexpected turn when Treasurer John Gabor, who is also the deputy city manager, spoke out against the budget.

According to sources who were at the meeting, Gabor said the budget was full of “lies” and that City Manager Katrina Powell was setting the city up for “disaster.”

An uproar ensued with Powell insisting Gabor to sit down and remain silent.

A recess was called by the mayor, and Gabor then left the building.

To no one’s surprise, Gabor was placed on paid administrative leave on Monday when he came to city hall. He will reportedly be off work for the remainder of this em-


**Continued on page 2**

## Clinic owner charged

By Charles Sercombe

A prominent Hamtramck developer has been convicted of Medicaid fraud.

On Tuesday Bashar Imam agreed to pay the state \$250,000 to avoid prison. He could have been sentenced to four years in prison.



**Local developer Bashar Imam, who runs three medical clinics in Hamtramck, recently pled guilty to Medicaid fraud.**

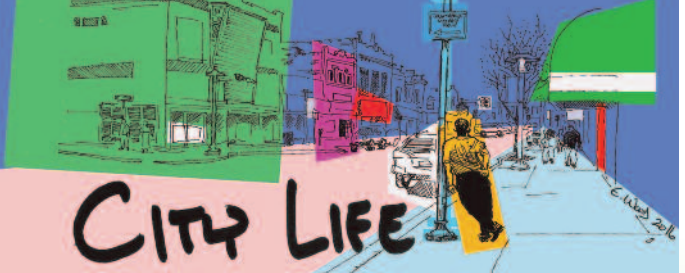
## Quote of the week ...

Who said this, and what is it about? You can find the quote and the story it belongs to somewhere in the pages of this issue.

**“The city is in enough turmoil as it is.”**



At a recent discussion held at Bank Suey about the Ukrainian famine, Volodymyr Murha played Ukraine’s national instrument, the bandura, for those gathered.



## CITY LIFE

## ‘Holodomor’ never forgotten

By Walter Wasacz

We too often forget that Ukrainian-Americans played a significant role in Hamtramck history. Members of the community built churches and schools, businesses and financial institutions.

Last week, two separate events in the city underscored that importance.

On Saturday, the Ukrainian American Historical Museum and Archives of Detroit held an open house at its future location at 9630 Jos. Cam-

**Continued on page 5**



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# City budget meeting erupts into shouting, ends with treasurer’s exit

Cont. from front page

ployment contract, which expires June 30.

City Manager Powell was asked by The Review for comment on the incident, but as of press time on Thursday she did not respond. The Review was not at the budget meeting.

The Review reached Gabor on phone Monday, but he declined to comment, saying: “The city is in enough turmoil as it is. I don’t want to add to it.”

The incident sparked a heated debate on Facebook among councilmembers and the mayor.

Gabor’s departure un-

derscores growing tension among elected officials and those in city hall.

For the past few months discord among officials has risen since a bare majority of councilmembers rejected a proposal to negotiate a contract extension with Powell.

Her employment contract with the city ends on June 30.

The same bare majority of councilmembers – Anam Miah, Abu Musa, Mohammed Hassan and Saad Almasmari – also called for a special meeting two weeks ago to post a job for an interim city manager.

That meeting raised accusations that the four councilmembers colluded behind the scenes and violated the state’s Open Meetings Act.

The four also refused to release a copy of their resolution before the special meeting.

Councilmember Almasmari admitted on Tuesday at the monthly Receivership Transition Advisory Board (RTAB) meeting that he refused to provide a copy of the resolution to Councilmember Ian Perrotta prior to the meeting for fear that Perrotta would post it on his Facebook page.

That admission may have offered proof that the four councilmembers discussed a city issue and came to a decision privately, outside of a public meeting, in violation of the OMA.

Further complicating issues have been the departures in recent weeks of department heads.

The directors of finance and public works have left employment with the city, but there are people in place to carry out their duties.

At Saturday’s budget meeting it was revealed that Gabor would no longer be employed and

he would be replaced by the deputy treasurer.

It was unclear if he was aware of this before the meeting.

Gabor was hired along with Powell over two years ago by the former emergency manager.

Gabor was among a handful of other candidates seeking to become the city manager.

Although he didn’t get the job, the EM decided to include him in the administration.

Powell has said she would not renew Gabor’s contract because there might be a new city manager and it would be unfair to her successor to not have a say in appointments.

She has said the new city manager should be able to pick their staff.

Powell’s future with the city has been unclear for the past few months.

In April the RTAB, which oversees all financial decision of the city, appeared to be on the verge of extending Powell’s contract but at its Tuesday meeting the matter was not addressed.

One RTAB member told The Review the state decided to allow the city council to decide what course to take. The state is in the process of returning full local control to the city.

Hamtramck came under state supervision four years ago because of a financial crisis.

As of now, it is unclear

if there will be a city manager in place when Powell’s contract expires. It is believed by some who are familiar with the matter that the four councilmembers who blocked extending Powell’s contract have a person in mind to hire and that the posting for city manager candidates is just a formality.

Their disapproval of Powell has often flared into angry exchanges at city council work sessions and regular meetings.

Councilmember Almasmari has not held back on his Facebook page, accusing Powell of running a “dictatorship” in city hall.

Powell’s supporters, Councilmembers Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta, as well as Mayor Karen Majewski, have said that the criticism of Powell is based on non-factual allegations.

Perrotta said there are some councilmembers who have problems with Powell that are “personal and do not have any professional basis.”

Powell told the RTAB that her budget proposal has nothing to hide, as Gabor seemed to imply during his outburst at Saturday’s budget meeting.

“There’s nothing hidden in the budget,” Powell told the RTAB. “Numbers don’t lie. People lie.”

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## This week at the library...

**Memorial Day** – In observance of the holiday, the library will be close, Monday, May 29.

**ESL Class** – Wednesday, May 31, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**ESL Class** – Friday, June 2, 9 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. ESL classes are free to all Hamtramck residents. Registration is required.

**Special movie** – Tuesday, May 30, 4 to 7:30 p.m. Please Join Wayne

County Commissioner Martha G. Scott at The Hamtramck Library to present a “Hidden Figures Viewing and Coding Party” (for teen girls 13-18). After viewing the movie, the girls will be asked to participate in a coding project Google Made with Code.

**Wayne Metro’s Free Tax Program** – Free Prior Year Tax Services, **Mondays June 19 and 26, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.** The service offers accessible services throughout Wayne County, with different

times and locations. While appointments are encouraged, walk-ins are also accepted. To make an appointment, please call (313) 388-9799 or 1 (734) 284-6999.

**Michigan Activity Pass** – The pass will enable Library card holders to obtain a one-time free entry into any Michigan State park or recreation area, and free entry into over 100 participating cultural institutions. Ask at the circulation desk for more details.

**For more information about events at the library call (313) 733-6822, or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> where you can also access the online catalog.**



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# Second Front Page



## School Bell

### Kosciuszko Middle School News

The KMS Student Council just finished up a charity drive for St. Jude. In March, the students of KMS completed a survey to determine a charity for which they would like to donate money.

The overwhelming result was for St. Jude with over 80% of the student population voting for their cause.

One hundred percent of the donations will go to help fund research at St. Jude's Hospital for the treatments and cures for childhood cancer. It will also help to make sure no child receives a bill for treatment and can get the help they need regardless of their financial situation.

According to the St. Jude's website, treatments invented at St. Jude have helped push the overall childhood cancer survival rate from 20% to more than 80% since it opened more than 50 years ago.

Although St. Jude has long been working hard to fight childhood cancer, KMS has just started this



**KMS students helped raise money for research being conducted at St. Jude Hospital, which specializes in treating childhood diseases.**

year. The St. Jude Money War started on April 17. The kids contributed loose change or paper money in their academic support classes. Each day student council members visited academic support classes and asked for donations. Every single class donated.

The Money War continued for two weeks until April 28. During this time, our generous teachers, staff, and students donated over \$350. We are proud to have so many giving students who have demonstrated a love for others and empathy of the heart.

If you would like to make an additional donation, you can make an online contri-

bution at their website <https://www.stjude.org/>

The end of the school year is approaching rapidly. And that means that final exams are just around the corner.

Make sure to talk to your child about the following study tips to prepare for finals on June 15 and 16. Read 10 minutes from the textbook to review each night. Review notes for 10 minutes each night.

Review old tests and quizzes to refresh your memory of topics covered. Study guides will be distributed to all students to help them study for their final exams. If you have any questions have your child ask their teacher.

### Holbrook Elementary School News

- Tuesday, May 30 – Bake sale after school.
- Wednesday, May 31 – Bake sale after school.

### All Schools

- Friday, May 26 – Half day for students and staff all schools.
- Monday, May 29 – No school for students and staff. Memorial Day.
- Tuesday, May 30 – School resumes.
- Thursday, June 1 – Last day of school for Hamtramck High School and Horizon High School Seniors.
- Thursday, June 8 – Last day for preschool.
- Friday, June 9 – Hamtramck High School and Horizon High School Graduation Ceremony at 6 p.m.
- Thursday, June 15 – Hamtramck High School, Horizon High School and Kosciuszko Middle School Final Semester Exams. Half Day for all schools. Records day for all schools in the afternoon.
- Friday, June 16 – Hamtramck High School, Horizon High School and

Continued on page 4



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**May 30** - Holy Mass, for people on prayer list, 7pm

**May 31** - May Devotion, Ice Cream Social, 7pm

**June 10** - Soup Kitchen, 2-4 pm

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# Three HHS students win prestigious DECA award

### By Alan Madeleine Special to The Review

Hamtramckans, you have another thing to be proud of now.

Hamtramck High School won an international award last month at the DECA competition, held in Anaheim, California. Their presentation bested a dozen from other teams in other states and countries that participated this year.

Three female students, all seniors – twins Naida and Maida Ribic, and Selma Kaltak – represented the school, with considerable supporting work from the club's other numerous members. The entire process began in November, said advisor Rula Bilbeisi, and continued through their triumph on April 26-28.

"I had been involved with DECA when I was a substitute in Plymouth-Canton," Bilbeisi said.

She hoped the program would translate here in Hamtramck when she arrived eight years ago. Interest has indeed grown, from only five participants at first to the 65 who joined this year, the most of any year so far.

DECA is an international non-profit 501(c)(3) organization with over 3,500 chapters at the high school level and another 275 at the collegiate tier. Previously known as both Delta Epsilon Chi and the



**Hamtramck High School students Selma Kaltak, Maida Ribic and Naida Ribic recently received DECA awards.** Photo by Aisha Khanum

Distributive Education Clubs of America, their stated aim is to prepare students for careers specifically in marketing, finance or hospitality and management. Of the three students interviewed, however, in this case two were headed into careers in medicine.

All agreed that participation in the club looks good on their college applications. As do the awards won.

Their other advisor, John Rostek, is a genial man who may be familiar to some Hamtramckans as the person who was hoping to scale each one of the highest mountains on the seven continents, a feat still in process. Mr. Rostek teaches accounting at the school.

He reiterated the tremendous amount of work for all students involved.

The process goes like this: Students who want

to participate must pay \$30 fee for the school year. This earns them participation in the district-level competition, including the bus ride to-and-from, lunch as well on that trip, and a T-shirt. Donations from local businesses help defray costs, as does money raised in the school store.

If their team does well, they can qualify for the state conference, held this year in downtown Detroit at the RenCen.

The three Hamtramck students qualified on the strength of their gold-level entry, which involved putting together six activities in each of six more-general categories (in their case, Membership Development, Community-Oriented, Academically Prepared, Experienced Leaders, Professionally Responsible, and Promotion/Public Relations).

Each one of these 36

Continued on page 4

### HOLY BUDDHA PURNIMA CELEBRATION, 2017 BANGLADESHI BUDDHIST COMMUNITY OF MICHIGAN, USA

The Buddha Purnima (Boishakhi Purnima – the full moon day of Boishakh) is the most important and significant holy day in Buddhism and is celebrated by Buddhist people all over the world. It's the day of three noble and sacred memories in Buddha's life – on the day 1. our lord BUDDHA was born, 2. discovered the way of Nibbana supreme enlightening by himself and 3. Attained Parinibbana (passed away).

This year we, the "Bangladeshi Buddhist Community of Michigan, USA" are going to celebrate the sacred day following the Buddhist and Bangali Traditions. In order to pay homage to Buddha's noble three memories, participation on this highly meritorious and wholesome event all believers may make more merits and enrich their Dhamma practice with noble qualities such as generosity, compassion, kindness and virtue.

**We would cordially like to invite you to participate in this merits making Holy Buddha Purnima Celebration on Saturday, June 3rd, 2017.**  
**Venue: Gates of Columbus Hall, 9632 Conant Ave., Hamtramck, MI, 48212.**

#### PROGRAM SCHEDULE

##### Religious Session:

- 10:00 AM: Arrival of Moha Sangha and lay community.
- 10:30 AM: Promising five precepts, Buddha Pooja and Monk's chanting.
- 11:30 AM: Offering luncheon to the Monks.
- 12:30 PM: Lunch for the lay community.
- 1:45 PM: A traditional Bangali Buddhist Peace Procession wit Buddha nam keerton.
- 2:00 PM: Speech, Dhamma presentation, blessing chants offering merits.
- 3:00 PM: Ending the religious session.

##### Cultural Session:

- 3:30 PM: Cultural show – organized and presented by Bangladeshi Buddhist Community of Michigan, USA.
- 8:00 PM: The end of the program.

May all beings be happy.

Holy Buddha Purnima Celebration Committee

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## School Bell

**Continued from page 3**

Kosciuszko Middle School Final Semester Exams- Half Day for all schools. Last day of school for all students. Records day for all schools in the afternoon.

- Friday, June 23 – Final report cards mailed.

**Athletic Events**

- Friday, May 26 – HHS Girls’ Varsity Softball vs. River Rouge at 5 p.m. Away.
- Friday, May 26 – HHS Boys’ Varsity Baseball vs. River Rouge at 5 p.m. Away.

**Compiled by  
Janice Gandelman**

## Clinic owner charged

**Continued from front page**

mer Oaza Bakery on Jos. Campau. The former bakery is now a jobs resource center run by a private company. Imam is active in the Syrian community and has sponsored Syrian refugees, setting them up with housing in the area, including in Hamtramck.

## Three HHS students win prestigious DECA award

**Continued from page 3**

outcomes had to then be documented with a written summary and accompanying photos.

If that sounds like a lot of work, over and above the demands of their regular schoolwork, well, it was – but it was also, all agreed, a lot of fun and quite fulfilling.

Maida Ribic most enjoyed a reading-to-kindergarten project.

"I enjoy working with young kids anyway," she said.

Twin sister Naida mentioned a project where freshman were taught interviewing skills, while Ms. Kaltak enjoyed the group's putting together a fundraiser for Syria.

"Many of our students are from areas in the Middle East here," she noted, "which made it easier" to get fellow students to participate, while making it feel more impactful at the same time.

The trio, having won the

**Continued on page 5**



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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### A crisis in city hall has led to a crisis in confidence

It's been four years now that Hamtramck has been under the control/supervision of the state.

Back in 2013 the state agreed with local elected officials that the city was under a financial crisis and then appointed an emergency manager, who was in place for 18 months.

After her term expired, as set by law, Katrina Powell was hired as the city manager by Emergency Manager Cathy Square to take over. Her contract was for two-and-a-half years. During that time the city manager reported all financial decisions to a state-appointed financial board.

Also during this time the city council and mayor had a severely limited role in directing the city manager.

The city manager's contract expires on June 30. So far, there is no replacement in place.

In the meantime, the positions of director of finances and the director of public works are vacant, although Powell said the jobs will be covered.

This past Monday Powell placed the treasurer on paid administrative leave after he spoke out against her budget at a work session on Saturday morning. His contract also is set to expire on June 30.

Folks, we have a crisis in city hall. It seems like we are worse off than when the state took over four years ago.

The situation feels like a run away train.

On top of that, the state financial board has given mixed signals whether it – or perhaps the state Treasury Department – will extend the city manager's contract. A bare majority on city council has refused to extend her contract.

Truth is, those councilmembers do not get along with City Manager Powell. They have not liked her management style, and accuse her of leaving the council out of critical decision-making.

Powell and her supporters say that is hogwash, that in fact Powell has tried to engage the council, but has been met with hostility when they do show up for meetings, and often don't show up for meetings, or arrive late.

Clearly, there is a problem here.

The top goals of the state were to make the city financially sound and to tame the political turmoil that for decades has haunted the city.

The city is supposedly in good financial shape, but the outgoing treasurer has cast some serious doubt over the city's finances.

As for the political circus, we are in worse shape that we were four years ago.

Something has to give here. Our residents and homeowners deserve order in city hall. They pay a lot of money in taxes and water bills and the least they should get in return is a functioning city hall.

Perhaps more disappointing is a field of new candidates in the August Primary Election without any experience in city government.

Maybe it's just us, but this week felt like Hamtramck took some giant leaps backwards.

### Three HHS students win prestigious DECA award

Continued from page 4

state competition, had to be flown to Anaheim with their chaperones for the three-day April international finals. While there are chapters in schools as far-flung as Guam, China, Germany and Spain, there were only 13 teams present at the finals this year, they said.

They arrived in time for the opening ceremony on Wednesday, April 26, then Thursday was partly filled with an orientation and the doling out of time slots for Friday's presentations in front of a pair of separate judges. There was time left over on Thursday for a little side trip to Disneyland, Rostek mentioned.

After winning the top award at the closing Friday night ceremony, the champs had a little excursion into posh Beverly Hills on Saturday before making their way home, exhausted but satisfied too by the recognition for their months' worth of hard work. They were quick to credit their many teammates who also put in so much effort along the way.

And they all smiled when reminded of the new-found pressure on next year's incoming senior class to repeat the feat, if they can.

### ‘Holodomor’ never forgotten

Continued from front page

pau. The museum was organized in the late 1950s and has operated for decades in a building at the corner of Charest and Commor, across the street from Immaculate Conception church.

A few days before at Bank Suey, Ukrainian affairs expert Vera Andrushkiv presented a lecture on Holodomor, the genocidal famine that killed millions of Ukrainians in the early 1930s.

Andrushkiv was joined by daughters of survivors of the Holodomor who read accounts of their mothers' experiences. There was also a performance by Volodymyr Murha, a member of the Ukrainian Bandurist Chorus. The bandura is the Ukrainian national instrument, akin to the mandolin.

In a fast-moving talk that lasted just over an hour, Andruhsxiv shared facts about 20th century Ukrainian history. The room was packed with people of all ages. Seats filled up quickly. Some stood, others sat on the floor.

She talked about Ukraine being the largest republic entirely within the borders of Europe, and how it became part of the Soviet Union when it was formed in 1922. In the late 1920s, she said, Soviet leader Josef Stalin introduced a program of agricultural collectivization that forced farmers to give up their private land, equipment, and livestock, and join state owned, factory-like collective farms.

According to documented historical accounts the Ukrainian genocide began in 1929 with waves of deadly deportations of Ukraine's most successful farmers as well as the deportations and executions of Ukraine's religious, intellectual and cultural leaders.

The genocide continued for several more years with the further destruction of Ukraine's political leadership, the resettlement of Ukraine's depopulated areas with other ethnic groups, the prosecution of those who dared to speak of the famine publicly, and the consistent denial of famine by the Soviet regime.

People were dragged from their homes, packed into freight trains, and shipped to remote, uninhabited areas such as Siberia. Up to 12 million Ukrainians died during the genocide, a staggering number.

When asked by an audience member to speak to Stalin's motives, Andrushkiv said the actions were initiated as a means to consolidate Soviet power, eliminating the threat he saw posed by increasing influence of the Ukrainian Communist Party.

For decades, discussion of the famine was forbidden by government officials: historians could only speak of "food difficulties" when talking about that period. Western governments, including the United States, were in denial as well, largely for political reasons, mostly in an attempt to build alliances with the emerging Soviet Union.

Serious research into what happened in the early 1930s did not begin until the late 1980s, when a new era of openness, called Glasnost, began in the last years of the Soviet Union, which disbanded in 1991. Ukraine's independence came in August of that same year.

In an entry in a two-volume dictionary of the Ukrainian language, published in 2004, Holodomor is described as "artificial hunger, organized on a vast scale by a criminal regime against a country's population."

Scholarly research continues into the causes and consequences of the genocidal famine, Andrushkiv said, as well as an attempt to place it into a historical context of other acts of genocide, past and present.

The lecture was part of "The Wall Speaks," an installation by Polish American visual artist Wojtek Sawa. The two months-long exhibition, which closes this Monday, May 29, draws a historical line between the experiences of Polish children of World War II and those in contemporary, similarly traumatic situations in the Middle East and elsewhere.

Several special programs throughout the duration of the exhibition set out to illustrate Sawa's thesis that all are voices of the unheard.

*Hamtramck native Walter Wasacz writes about walkable discovery, what he also calls adventures close to home, every two weeks in the Review.*

### Other Voices: Guest Editorial

#### Examine the facts behind the city manager’s job performance with the city

By Ian Perrotta  
City Councilmember

These past two weeks have been unfortunate and embarrassing for the City of Hamtramck.

Even more disheartening, the actions taken by some members of council have begun to have a direct financial impact and have precluded significant economic investment from occurring.

I have been working for seven years to try and revitalize the historic baseball stadium in Veterans Park, and just as we were on the precipice of landing a major sponsor the organization decided that pursuing the project was untenable and that they “simply can’t commit investment in such a dysfunctional city right now.”

Let me be clear. This is not a result of the opposition against the majority of the council's decision to not continue Ms. Powell's contract. We live in a democracy, and if that is what the people want then that is the way it should be.

Conversely, many constituents whom I represent feel that Ms. Powell has done an exemplary job and the discontinuation of her contract is unwarranted. I am simply representing their voice, as well as my own feelings.

In my opinion, Ms. Powell has performed incredibly well given the hostile work environment she has had to endure as a result of the conduct of some members of council. I do not feel as though Ms. Powell has ever been given a fair chance to succeed.

I believe the problems some members of council have with her are personal and not professional. That is the only logical explanation as to why they would be willing to risk spending \$2 million to violate the terms of a state loan by removing her from her position without having a qualified city manager to replace her.If the reticence of investment is not caused by the opposition to the discontinuation of Ms. Powell’s contract it must be caused by something else. That something else is the conduct that the majority of council has displayed in going about the whole situation.


It has been apparent since my first day on council that some members of council had no intention of renewing her contract. This was in October of 2015.

Nothing Ms. Powell or anyone else has done prevented the council from taking timely and appropriate steps to replace her. If the council did not want to renew her contract then action should have taken much earlier than February 27 of this year, which was the first time that the council

Continued on page 6

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# Examine the facts behind the city manager’s job performance with the city Cont. from page 5

cil attempted to manifest their intention of not renewing Ms. Powell’s contract.

This was done by passing a resolution to find a firm that could conduct a search for a new city manager. Because the cost was over \$10,000 to do this, the RTAB had to approve it.

This was not placed on the RTAB’s agenda until March 28. It has been less than two months since the RTAB approved that resolution. Two months is not enough time to conduct a search for a qualified City Manager. It’s barely enough time to put the Request For Proposals out for bid to even find a firm to conduct a search for a City Manager, let alone complete the entire process.

The council either does not understand how the RTAB works or does not care, because if they did they wouldn’t have initiated a process that can take up to six months (or more be-

cause of the RTAB approval turnaround time) with a mere three months’ worth of lead time.

As a result of the incompetent way of going about replacing the City Manager, members of council have taken additional steps to try and ensure success in spite of their own ineptitude. Part of this was the special meeting of Friday May 12, held at noon with just 18 hours’ notice.

The purpose of this kangaroo court of a meeting was to pass a resolution full of libel, half-truths, and factual inaccuracies. I attempted to find out the purpose of the meeting but was met by silence from the four members of council – a constructive quorum in violation of the Open Meetings Act – who called for the meeting.

When I asked the four councilman at the Budget Meeting on Saturday, May 20 why it was that I didn’t get a copy of the resolution, I was told by Council-

man Miah that he hadn’t finished writing it. I didn’t think to ask why he would call a meeting without first having a completed resolution until later, but it would have been a moot point.

Councilman Almasmari approached me after the meeting and told me that he had a copy of the resolution but didn’t want me to see it because he was afraid I would "put it on Facebook and talk bad about it because Katrina is your girl."

I responded that of course I would have put it on Facebook and it is likely I would have talked bad about it, but that is how an open representative democracy works. Transparency matters. I also told him I don’t defend Ms. Powell because “she’s my girl,” but because I think she is doing a good job and is being unfairly treated.

So that is where we are today. One Councilmember has apparently outright lied to me, and another Councilmember has admitted to withholding relevant and important information. This is not the hallmark of a functioning City Council.

Libelous statements are being carelessly thrown around on Facebook, and disinformation, half-truths and outright lies have become the norm. In the meantime, I have tried to remain as open, honest, and transparent as possible about my feelings and intentions.

I admit to being vocal and adamant about my feelings and positions, but I do not believe that that is the cause of concern of outside entities. Maybe they saw the Fox 2 news report where I was trying to make a valid point pertaining to the resolution at hand but was silenced by Councilman Miah. That would be unfortunate.

However, the real tragedy would be the fact that if that truly was the cause of the decision to not fund the project, then I would have been forced to choose from doing two important and impactful things, picking one at the expense of the other. Working to revitalize an important piece of Hamtramck history and trying to prevent the subversion of democracy should not be a

mutually exclusive proposition. That is wrong.

It should never have gotten to the point that I was being silenced for voicing my opinion. As a council, we should not fear discussing our business out in the open and for everyone to hear.

We should be willing to hear opinions that are contrary to our own. And to that end, I agree with the majority of council that we should have heard what Treasurer Gabor had to say. However, I disagree with the manner in which he conducted himself at the meeting, and I believe Ms. Powell acted responsibly by removing him from the meeting.

In agreement with me are Councilman Musa and Councilman Hassan, who both told Ms. Powell that Mr. Gabor’s behavior was out of line and would not have been tolerated in a professional setting. While it was difficult to understand what was being said by Mr. Gabor and others as there was much talking over one another, I do know that Mr. Gabor indicated that the problems he

spoke of were apparent months ago. If that truly was the case then it was incumbent on him as a professional in his position to make his concerns known at that time.

At very least he could have prepared a memo or even bullet points outlining his concerns to have ready for the budget meeting. Because he didn’t there is no real record of what his concerns were. However, I do know that the budget was put together by the City Controller and I do not believe she would allow for any inaccuracies. Indeed, several members of the public and council have commended the Controller for a job well done.

As for Mr. Gabor’s placement on administrative leave, that was a personnel decision and Ms. Powell’s to make. In light of the circumstances – which include Mr. Gabor’s imminent departure from the city coupled with his pugnacious attitude at the budget meeting – it was a prudent management decision that would likely have

Continued on page 8



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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PROPOSED 2017-2018 BUDGET

The Board of Education of the School District of the City of Hamtramck will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 14, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. in the Administration Building, 3201 Roosevelt Street, to review and consider the school district’s 2017-2018 proposed budget.

**The property tax millage rate proposed to be levied to support the proposed budget will be a subject of this hearing.**

Copies of the 2017-2018 Proposed Budget will be available for examination in the Superintendent of Schools Office, 3201 Roosevelt, from 8:00 a.m. June 13, 2017, until the time of the Public Hearing.

Salah Hadwan, Secretary  
Hamtramck Board of Education

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CRIME LOG

**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers May 16-22.  
**Tuesday, May 16**  
• At 4:30 p.m. a resident was arrested in the area of Gallagher and Jacob after arguing with another male for assault and possessing a rifle in a school zone.  
• A Detroit man was cited for being disorderly and then transported to a local hospital for evaluation.  
• A resident in the 3000 block of Jacob was arrested for domestic violence.  
• At midnight a Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for obstruction and driving without a license.  
• At 1 a.m. two residents from Canton were robbed at gunpoint by two males while in the parking lot of the Hamtramck Library.  
• At 7:30 a.m. a resident was arrested in the area of Gallagher and Belmont on an outstanding warrant for home invasion.  
**Thursday, May 17**  
• A Trowbridge resident reported his 10-year-old

child was dropped off at the wrong school.  
• At a little after 3 a.m. a resident was arrested for drunk driving after causing an accident at Evaline and Mitchell.  
• A Dequindre resident reported someone broke a window at their home.  
• A Jos. Campau business owner reported the theft of propane tanks from his store.  
**Thursday, May 18**  
• At 11:15 p.m. a resident was carjacked in the area of Klinger and Commor. His car was recovered in Detroit's westside, at Fenkel and Greenfield.  
• At 1:30 a.m. officers responded to a large fight taking place in the 3800 block of Evaline. A Sterling Heights resident was arrested at the scene for possessing a stolen car and carrying a concealed gun without a permit.  
• Officers picked up a loose pit bull in the 2400 block of Holmes. Its owner claimed the dog a few hours later.  
• At almost 1 p.m. a

**Continued on page 8**

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# **NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING PLAN COMMISSION CITY OF HAMTRAMCK**

The Plan Commission will conduct a public meeting in the 2nd Floor Council Chambers of Hamtramck City Hall, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212, on June 14, 2017, at 6:30 p.m., to consider and afford the opportunity for input to be recorded on the premises described below. The public is invited to attend and comment at the public meeting or to make written comments on or before the date of the meeting. Written comments should be made to the attention of Melanie A. Markowicz, City Planner, ATTN: Plan Commission, 3401 Evaline Street, Hamtramck, MI 48212.


- A. **Public Meeting** – Abdul Motlib, Al-Islah Islamic Center, 11301 Joseph Campau  
Final Site Plan Review. The request is for a new exterior façade plan for alterations to an existing building.
- B. **Public Meeting** – Mohammed Alsomiri, 9808 Joseph Campau  
Preliminary Site Plan Review. The request is for alterations to the façade of an existing building.
- C. **Public Meeting** – Henry Velleman, 8422 Joseph Campau  
Combined Preliminary and Final Site Plan Review. The request is for alterations to an existing building and site redevelopment.
- D. **Public Meeting** – Islamic Center of Hamtramck, 11347 Joseph Campau  
Final Site Plan Review. The request is for new construction.

PLEASE NOTE: This notice is posted in compliance with PA 267 of 1976 as amended (Open Meetings Act), MCLA 41.71 a (2) (3) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The City of Hamtramck will provide necessary reasonable auxiliary aids and services, such as signers for the hearing impaired and audio tapes of printed materials being considered at the Meeting to individuals with disabilities at the Meeting or Public Hearing upon 10 day notice to the City Clerk's Office. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Hamtramck City Clerk by writing or calling the Clerk's Office at (313) 800-5233 x821.

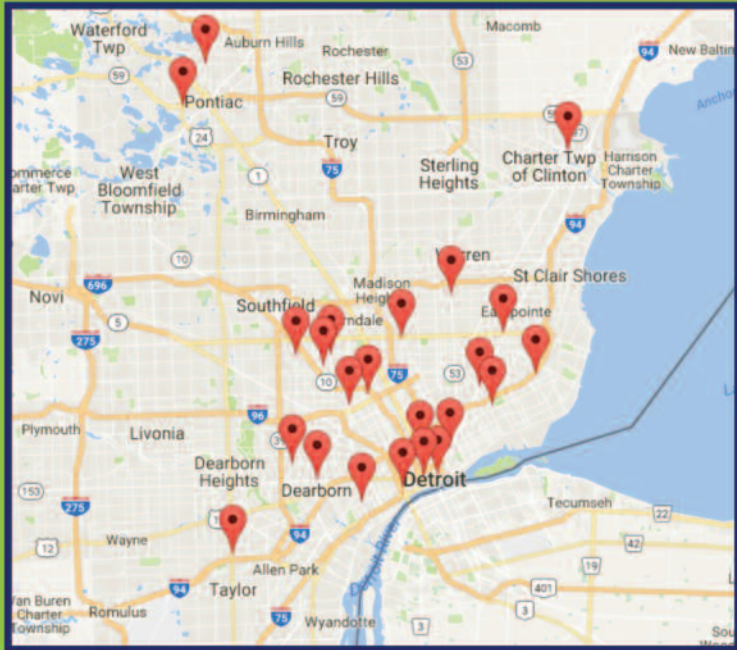
Going forward, I think it is necessary and prudent to remember that while people are entitled to their opinions, facts do not lie. I encourage everyone to examine the facts when deciding whom to believe and in understanding what the best path is for the city to move forward. Thank you.

• At 3:30 a.m. A Detroit resident was arrested after a traffic stop for driving without a license and having an improper license plate. A Hamtramck resident who was a passenger in the car was also arrested for being wanted on a Hamtramck warrant.

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