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# The Review

## Hamtramck

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## Quick Hits

There's nothing like summer in the city.

At Recycled Treasures next Friday (July 21), you can celebrate the season in a special “Sweet Summer Night” benefit starting at 7 p.m. and running until midnight.

Proceeds will go to support the organization, which sells discounted used clothing and furniture. Recycled Treasures also helps out needy families by providing free beds and other items.

The event will feature chocolates by Hamtramck's own Bon Bon Bon, drinks and music, all for a \$30 donation.

There will also be a silent auction, raffles and other fun activities.

Recycled Treasures is located at 12101 Jos. Campau. For more information call (313) 826-7158.

## 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.

**“I only want what's best for Hamtramck.”**

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# City manager has plenty to say in her farewell to the city

**By Charles Sercombe**

Former City Manager Katrina Powell described her stay here for the past two-and-a-half years as something similar to a soldier being deployed into a hostile environment.

“I never planned on staying here longer than my two-and-a-half years, because when on deployment, you go into a hostile environment, you correct all that you can as quickly as you can, you take care of the troops who take care of you, and you leave the location in a much better place than it was when you got there,” Powell said in her “final words” to the state-appointed Receivership Transition Advisory Board at its



**Former City Manager Katrina Powell meets with residents during one of her last city council meetings. A bare majority of city councilmembers decided to not renew her employment contract with the city, which expired June 30.**

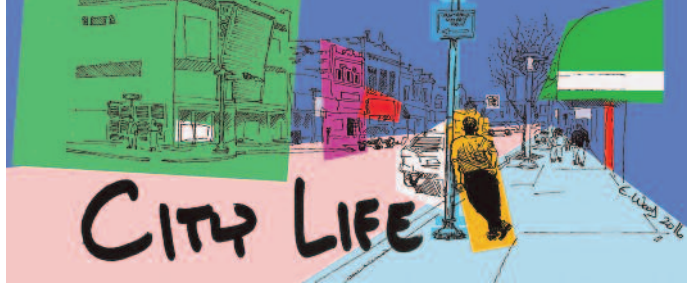
monthly meeting in June.

The RTAB has been overseeing all financial and contractual agreements made by the city since a state-appointed emergency manager left

at the time Powell was hired. Powell's employment contract with the city expired on June 30.

The city council was divided over whether to extend her contract, but a

**Continued on page 2**



## WW and JFK

**By Walter Wasacz**

I keep pictures of my mom and dad side by side in my bedroom, on a chest of drawers opposite a wall filled with posters, books and music.

It's one of the most intellectually rich and emotionally

active spaces in my house. The pictures were taken in the 1940s, at Smart Set studio on Jos. Campau. They look young, beautiful and confident in the portraits, ready to take on the world. My parents were

go-getters, doers and community organizers before descriptive words like those were commonly used.

They played important roles in Hamtramck life for decades. I like to believe that the energy they brought to their time has been passed down to me in mine.

I've written quite a bit about my mother, who passed away five years ago this summer, and I will do so many times again. But recently my thoughts have turned to my dad, who died in 1974

at age 62, the same age I turn later this month. I was 19 and just getting to know him, man to man. Over 40 years later I am still doing that, and I expect to be doing it for years to come.

I thought of my dad – also named Walter Wasacz, often called WW for short – when I walked to the far eastern edge of the city, into the streets and alleys of Ducktown, a historically African American neighborhood that roughly stretches from Conant to Alpena, with Ye-

**Continued on page 2**



## Keeping things in perspective

**By John Ulaj  
Review Publisher**

In the midst of all of our city government's political infighting and turmoil, many pressing issues are being ignored, and many problems are thus not getting addressed.

City residents are rightly infuriated by all this bickering, and the resulting lack of timely action. I could expound for many hours on this subject, but as we say in the profession of real estate, “time is of the essence,” so I will try to be concise.

I can say that I have personally witnessed Hamtramck's downtown area grow increasingly dirty and neglected over the years. This area should be considered the very heart of our city, but unfortunately it seems like no one's in charge of maintaining these potentially beautiful – and historic – blocks.

Given all the current confusion and chaos in City Hall, one has to wonder, can they get it together enough to govern, to solve this issue and all the others?

Perhaps the bigger question is, why can't the city seem to move forward? The answer in my

**Continued on page 8**



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# City manager has plenty to say in her farewell to the city

Continued from front page

management, told the RTAB she had no intention of staying beyond her contract, when a councilmember’s resolution came up on a council agenda to extend her contract, she did not discourage it.

Powell’s comments went on for 30 minutes and she spent it lashing out at her critics and listing her accomplishments.

Powell came from Florida to take this job, and told the RTAB that she immediately felt hostility when she came here to be interviewed by the city council.

That hostility, she said, increased when she began investigating former Police Chief Max Garbarino soon after becoming city manager.

The nature of the investigation was never explained, and a few days

after it began Garbarino voluntarily resigned. At the time Powell refused to comment on the investigation.

At the RTAB meeting she reversed that position and talked extensively about it.

A link to the transcript of the meeting can be found on the city’s web page.

Garbarino was never accused of wrongdoing, but Powell’s comments to the RTAB suggest otherwise.

Garbarino and the city signed a separation agreement. It was not immediately clear if Powell’s comments violated the terms – or the spirit – of that agreement.

Garbarino declined to comment.

Some of her accomplishments included getting long-neglected and overdue repairs done to

Conant, a Wayne County-owned road. That was an achievement past city managers and city councils tried but failed to achieve.

Under Powell’s leadership, the city also started up a yearly street and alley repair program, improved city parks, received federal funding to install a new sewer system in the southend to alleviate ongoing basement flooding during heavy storms and surpassing the emergency manager’s projected \$2 million budget surplus to about \$5 million.

Powell had nothing but praise for the community at large.

## WW and JFK Cont. from front page

mans St. as its centerpiece.

I had a number of friends who lived in Ducktown. I also thought of some of them – Michael, Charles, Jonathan, Wayne, Craig, Dennis, Myron – as I walked, but my focus was the building that currently houses the Bridge Academy. That was where my father worked as superintendent of public works when City of Hamtramck offices were moved there in the 1960s. It was where he landed after years of working on political campaigns locally and across the state.

After my father came back from military service in WWII, he began working for politicians attempting to court the Polish-American vote. In Hamtramck, that was up to 85 percent of the voting population from the time the city charter was established in 1922 through the early 1960s. That percentage got the attention of candidates at the state and federal levels.

There is one story about my father that was often told in the bars and social halls of the city, and it was told long after his passing. Many of those who retold the story are gone too. I fear it will disappear unless I keep the memory

“I have eaten in more homes here of people I don’t know than my entire years of life,” Powell said. “The people of this town are welcoming, hardworking, and humble, and I am blessed to have met them.”

She had the warmest remarks for staffmembers, especially her former assistant, Danesha Reeder.

“She had an impeccable taste in fashion and an incredible calming demeanor with the residents and me, partnered with an unbelievable work ethic to boot. She is my ride or die chick always,” Powell said.

She went to accuse –

alive in living archives like this column.

The story goes like this: In June 1957, Democrat John F. Kennedy, then junior U.S. Senator from Massachusetts, traveled to Detroit for an American Relief for Poland dinner. He was beginning to build his candidacy for a run at the presidency in 1960 with a series of targeted visits that would help build momentum with important groups of voters.

A big part of JFK’s campaign strategy was to appeal to Eastern European ethnic communities in cities across the Midwest. An overwhelming percentage of Polish-Americans were Democrats in cities like Chicago, Milwaukee, Cleveland, Buffalo and Detroit. Energizing a voting bloc that large could mean the difference between winning and losing the election.

My father was then the

Continued on page 8

but not naming – those seeking elected office and holding elected positions of “bullying” community members and committing election fraud and drug dealing.

“The election fraud and drug dealing are real in this town,” she said.

In closing she said:

“You see, I’m not an operative of the former EM, or the Governor, who

I’ve never met, by the way, like some officials, city officials, former city attorneys, obstructionists, or newspapers want you to think I am. I’m just a girl who likes a challenge and to make the world a better place, one mission at a time. I can undeniably say, I’ve completed the mission. KP out.”

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## This week at the library...

**Website Development Camp – July 31 – August 3, 2:30-4:30 p.m.** Hamtramck Public Library. Registration: H a m - tramck Public Library Front Desk. Contact: Andrew He (248) 345-6863. Tuition: Free.

Have you ever browsed websites and wondered how they’re built? Have you ever dreamed of building a website for your project, business, or even for introducing yourself, your own ideas, and accomplishments?

This camp is to help you learn the basic concepts and skills to build a website. You will be introduced to the basics of the programming languages HTML, CSS, and you will learn how to build a website using the online website builder, WordPress. The best of all, you will have a website of your own by the end of the class. The class will elect and re-

ward prizes for the best websites built during the class.

- HTML, CSS, Word-Press
- Make your own website

Maximum Enrollment: 12 Students (10 – 13 years of age, or 4th – 6th Graders).

**Business For Youth** – Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship, **Aug. 7, 14, 21, 28**). Class Time: 2-3 p.m. Hamtramck Public Library. Registration: Hamtramck Public Library Front Desk. Contact: Andrew He (248) 345-6863. Tuition: Free.

This program is designed to help young students take charge of their own financial life.

The Personal Finance and Entrepreneurship class is intended to teach students the principles of saving and investing in stocks and bonds. The class will

discuss credit and investment, the difference between the NYSE and the NDAQ Stock Markets, and how to deal with interest rates in an easy to understand way.

Students will make their own mock stock portfolios, and monitor them throughout the class. Then, take their newly gained investing knowledge and research how to start a business of their own.

Maximum Enrollment: 12 Students each class (10 – 13 years old, or 4th – 6th Graders)

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**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.**



# Second Front Page

## A new week and another new temporary city manager

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck is now on its fourth temporary city manager within the last 30 days.

At Tuesday's regular city council meeting, a bare majority of councilmembers rejected the appointment of Police Chief Anne Moise as acting city manager.

She was appointed by former City Manager Katrina Powell two days before Powell's employment contract expired on June 30.

That appointment was within Powell's authority under the city charter.

But the city charter also allows the city council to reject that appointment, which is what happened Tuesday. After firing Moise, Councilmembers Anam Miah, Saad Almas-mari, Abu Musa and Mohammed Hassan then agreed to appoint Kathy Angerer, the Director of Community and Governmental Affairs, to take over as acting city manager.

Councilmembers Andrea Karpinski and Ian Perrotta had previously voted in favor of Moise's



Kathy Angerer

appointment and voted against Angerer's appointment.

Perrotta said Angerer is "not the appropriate person for this position." He explained that since Moise is one of the few department heads in the city to supervise 10 or more employees, that makes her more suitable for the job.

Karpinski also said Moise's supervision of multiple employees makes her more qualified. She also added that there was no resume submitted for Angerer.

Councilmember Miah proposed the resolution to hire Angerer. He appeared to read from a pre-

pared text and stumbled several times on reading it aloud, and even struck out some portions after reading it.

Perrotta complained that the proposal to hire Angerer was "sprung up on surprise" to the council without prior notice.

Angerer's appointment isn't a done deal until the state-appointed Receiver-ship Transition Advisory Board weighs in. That board has final approval of all financial and contractual decisions.

The RTAB's next regular meeting is July 25. At the time The Review went to press on Thursday it was not known if the board will hold a special meeting to consider the appointment.

In the meantime, Angerer told The Review she is working with Moise. Angerer added that she planned to talk with the state Treasury Department on Thursday afternoon to find out if the state will support her appointment.

Angerer said she was not told beforehand that she was going to be appointed as acting city

manager. She said she is willing to take on the role.

"I only want what's best for Hamtramck," Angerer told The Review.

Angerer has served in a number of roles for the past several years in the city, including economic development, code enforcement and now planning special events and promotions.

She has been most well known for planning various improvements to city parks, including a complete overhaul of Pope Park.

Her role with the city was reduced in recent years under Powell, who took economic development and overseeing code enforcement away from her and hired others to take on those duties.

Angerer was here before the state stepped in and appointed an emergency manager. Prior to coming to Hamtramck she was a state representative and had experience in education and other government roles.

How long she will serve as acting city manager is unknown. The same coun-

Continued on page 4

### School Bell

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Hamtramck residents may enroll their children in Hamtramck Public Schools at the HPS Business Office, 3201 Roosevelt.

Summer enrollment hours are 7:30 a.m. to 3:45 p.m.

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Grades 7-8: 10 seats

for each 7th & 8th grade, enrollment ended

Grade 9, HHS: Unlimited, through August 4, 2017

Grades 10-11, HHS: 10 seats for each 10th & 11th grade, enrollment ended

Grades 9-12, Horizon: Through August 4, 2017

Late SOC applications cannot be accepted. School of Choice Applicants may be denied based on the student's attendance and/or discipline record.

#### Compiled by

Janice Gandelman



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# Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

By Charles Sercombe

Welcome to week two of The Review's candidate survey.

On Aug. 8 Hamtramck voters will be going to the polls to vote for candidates for mayor and city council.

This is the primary election, and the candidates who survive that first round will square off in the November General Election.

The Review mailed each

candidate a survey of questions about some of the issues facing the city.

In the coming weeks The Review will present their responses, in their own words. The Review asked for candidates to respond by June 30, but only several of the candidates have returned the survey.

This week, we present Andrea Karpinski, who is running for re-election to city council, and council

candidate Nayeem Choudhury:



**NAME:** Andrea Ellen Karpinski

**Education:** Attended St. Ladislaus and Our Lady Queen of Apostles Grade Schools, and graduated high school from Saint Florian in 2002. (The last graduating class from there.) I completed a few credits from Wayne State in General Education.

**Employment:** I worked for the City of Hamtramck beginning in 2003 until 2010. I began my career working part-time for the Building Department and the 31st District Court, and was then hired full time as a clerk in the Department of Public Services in 2004.

I also worked as a Code Enforcement Officer and finished off working in the Records Bureau of the Police Department. In 2010, I left municipal work to take a position with the State of Michigan. I worked for the Department of Corrections, Department of Human Services and the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. Within those positions I did not feel like I was a part of helping anyone as directly as I was while working for the City of Hamtramck.

**Experience in government/municipal affairs:** In 2013, I decided to run

Continued on page 5

## First of three ‘Music in the Park’ concerts a summer pleasure



Above and below: Scenes from the city's first “Music in the Park” program that kicked off in June. There are two more concerts scheduled, with the next one on July 27, 6:30 p.m. at Zussman Park. The event is free and family-oriented.



By Charles Sercombe

Two Thursdays ago was the first of three free Music in the Park offerings at Zussman Park.

While the weather threatened to turn ugly at any minute the Tartarsauce Traditional Jazz Band played on – just like any band does on a sinking ship.

Kidding, the musicians' union no longer allows that to happen.

And in case any of you WSU alums were wondering if the band name had anything to do with Wayne State University (Home of the Tartars), yes, indeed, it does (and no it's not really food – or dental – related).

Nowadays, however, the nickname for Wayne's sports teams is the War-

riors (excuse us, but how boring!) – changed in 1999 because a poll of uninformed undergrads didn't know what a “tar-tar” was.

Hmmmm, guess you'd have to go to college to find out.

As the evening proceeded residents came in twos and threes. It wasn't a large crowd, most likely because of the weather, but it was an appreciative one.

By all accounts the series this summer will be welcomed for many, and Zussman Park once again is proving to be a popular gathering spot.

The remaining concerts will be held July 27 and Aug. 24, both starting at 6:30 p.m.



## A new week and another new temporary city manager named

Continued from page 3

oil majority that appointed her has refused to hire a company to begin a search for a permanent city manager.

Powell left under contentious circumstances after serving here for two-and-a-half years.

As Powell was leaving the same council majority first appointed former acting city manager Kyle Tertzag, who was rejected by the RTAB.

Next up, the same majority appointed former Treasury John Gabor as interim, but that appoint-

ment was apparently abandoned after it was learned that he lacked enough experience as a city manager in a city with at least 10,000 in population.

Instead of sticking with Gabor, the four councilmembers appointed Angerer as acting city manager. The qualifications for acting city manager are far less than for an interim or permanent city manager.

An acting city manager simply has to be an active department head.

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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### School district is on the ball to get kids more active

This country has many problems, but one of the most embarrassing ones is the number of kids who are out of shape and obese.

Over the last few decades there has been a steady decline in the number of hours kids devote to playing and being physically active.

We can all name the culprits to explain this phenomenon: television, electronic games, cell-phones, and on and on. Adding to that is the number of single parent homes where the lone parent just doesn't have enough time to make sure their kids are being active.

And also no one feels safe seeing their kids go out and play without adult supervision. It's hard to be a kid and a parent these days.

But recently, we were witness to something really encouraging to turn this national dilemma around.

Two weeks ago the public school district hosted the rollout of a privately-funded program that aims to get kids more physically active. The Ralph C. Wilson, Jr. Foundation has been funding various programs across the country to help promote this goal.

A recent study has confirmed folks' worst fears about just how bad it is for many kids. Only 27 percent of youths spend at least one hour a day in physical activity – which includes play and sports.

In Detroit the situation is worse, with only 10 percent of kids reporting to be active for at least one hour a day.

Hamtramck served as a perfect backdrop for this needed program. As folks from various foundations and agencies spoke, kids in the Hamtramck soccer club, The Warriors, showed off their skills.

Hamtramck's school district has many resources for kids to find activities to their liking. This is yet another reason why our school district is one of the best in the area.

We sense that down the road, there will be a partnership with the school district to further expand the programs offered here.

## Other Voices: Guest Editorial

### Wayne County Treasurer working to reduce foreclosures

**By Eric R. Sabree**  
**Wayne County Treasurer**

Since my election as Wayne County Treasurer nearly one year ago we have taken aggressive steps to prevent foreclosures in Wayne County.

Contrary to some recent media reports reflecting special interests, there's simply no incentive to foreclose on homeowners anywhere in Wayne County. The assertion we are counting on foreclosures to balance the county budget is absurd.

We are doing everything we can to reduce foreclosures, help people get into payment plans and obtain the financial aid and advice they need to be productive homeowners in our greater community.

Without question, the foreclosure issue is a major one in Wayne County and may well be unprecedented anywhere in the nation. Wayne County and its largest city, Detroit, was impacted by the Great Recession and subsequent largest municipal bankruptcy in U.S. History – all following decades of decline in population due to evaporating jobs in the automotive and related industries and globalization.

No other region has been affected by similar economic shock waves. I

cite these issues to provide context to the challenging dilemma of the continuing foreclosure problem.

From my perspective, we have a firm grasp on the challenge and can demonstrate great progress in foreclosure reductions. We are optimistic that the worst is behind us. Let's look at just the past few years:

- In 2015, some 28,000 properties were auctioned due to foreclosures.
- In 2016, we were able to reduce the number of foreclosures to 13,900.

We are working to reduce the number of properties in the auction in the fall of 2017. The office of the Wayne County Treasurer has less than 10,000 properties scheduled to be auctioned.

- Conducted an unprecedented outreach campaign using paid and earned media to educate people on options to prevent foreclosures.
- Supported and attained new legislation for the Interest Rate Reduction program allowing homeowners to reduce their interest rates on delinquent taxes from 18% to 6%.
- Enrolled thousands of homeowners in monthly payment plans.
- Joined a kiosk net-

work to allow people to make payments in their neighborhoods in a safe, convenient manner with no “convenience fees.” (This has increased collections, reduced overhead and stabilized payment programs).

- Engaged homeowners in Taxpayer Saturdays and Talk with the Treasurer sessions throughout Wayne County to educate residents on all of the options and resources available to help them stay in their homes.
- Cooperated with the State of Michigan and Federal Government in the Step Forward program to bring additional resources to help.
- Commissioned a door knocking campaign for over 6,200 properties in Detroit. Securing and boarding up unoccupied structures that are open to trespass and pose a safety hazard.

One of the root causes of property tax foreclosure is poverty, which is compounded by a lack of education, job training and employment opportunities.

Our office will continue to fulfill our statutory duties and collect taxes and enforce the law while doing everything possible to help people stay in their homes.

## Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

Cont. from page 4

for City Council, because I felt I had a different perspective that I could offer, because I was a full time resident, who had worked for the City in the past. I felt I could work to help both the residents and the city employees to have a good future with the City of Hamtramck.

I won the election in November of 2013, and took office in January of 2014, at which time, I was selected to be Mayor Pro-Tem by a vote of my peers on City Council, I served as Mayor Pro-Tem until January of 2016. I am currently finishing my first term on City Council. I yearned for another way to give back to my community, and couldn't find another job that sent me home with satisfaction of helping others and helping a community that I loved.

From 2013, until December of 2016, I worked a few part time jobs, one with the City of Dearborn as a Code Enforcement Officer. I never felt connected to that community as it just wasn't "Hamtramck," and yearned for that connection that I had while working for the City of Hamtramck.

I finally was able to find a position that gives me satisfaction, helps me give back and be more of a part of Hamtramck's future, by being hired with the Hamtramck Public Schools, as a secretary at Hamtramck High School in December of 2016. I enjoy working with the youth of the community and it gives me a new aspect into the many nationalities and cultures that make up Hamtramck.

I continue to believe I have an aspect different from other candidates in that I worked for the City of Hamtramck, live in the City, and currently work for another entity within the City, I truly have the City employees, residents, students, business owners, and visitors best interests at heart.

My experience is included above, in addition I have achieved the Level One Education Award and very close to finishing my Level Two Award, through the Michigan Municipal League by taking many classes over the last 4 years while on City Council.

**As a challenger or incumbent, explain why you are running for office:**

I am running for re-election, because I truly bleed Hamtramck. I want the best for the community and its residents, business owners, workforce and visitors. I want to continue seeing forward progress in areas of infrastructure and development.

**What are the city's top three challenges, as you see it?**

I see the top challenge as people being involved in politics who have ulterior motives or are looking for personal gain. To me, I truly want the best for the community, I don't have any personal interest other than to see the City flourish.

I believe we have been set on the right path by our hard working City Manager, Katrina Powell. If we continue on the path that she and her staff have set forth, we can do nothing but stay positive. However, greed, and selfishness will put us back in the negative.

If we can elect positive people and appoint well educated, positive people to head our departments, I see Hamtramck continuing to be the amazing City that it has grown to be.

**How would you solve/meet these challenges?**

If elected I will continue to have an open mind, and continue to be a voice for the community as a whole. Whether that is going with the majority or against. I will do my research when things are put up to us to vote on.

**The city is transitioning back to full local control. What will you do to facilitate this transition if elected?**

I will work with the City Manager and Department heads to keep the City moving forward, I would love to see the City gain full control back, but I will not go along with things just to make it happen. At this point I don't believe the City Council as a whole deserves to have full control back, many members are making decisions that will negatively impact the City in the long run, and are doing so for what I believe is personal gain. Unless those things begin to change, I will fight for the State to still have limited control. I would rather this happen, than to put our City into the Black Hole that is Receivership.

**What will you do to prevent the city from falling into another financial crisis?**

I believe my above response answers this question.

**Talk about the city's budget. Do you think there should be some changes to where money is spent or changes to any department or service?**

I believe the budget is pretty good as it has been set by City Manager Powell and our department heads. I voiced my opinions in our Budget Workshop, in regards, to hiring more personnel in the Treasurer's office and other areas of the City and the budget reflects those changes. I understand not every budget is perfect, but I believe the budget, as set, is a good one.

**The city has had a problem in getting along with its city managers. What has been going wrong in this relationship, and how can the city avoid the constant change in management?**

I think Hamtramck's issue with “getting along” with City Managers has to do with majority of the past city managers being “yes men”, they went along with and abided by certain members of Council and/or contractors rather than getting the job done.

I have only worked with Ms. Powell, while being on City Council. While I didn't agree with every decision she made, I felt I could talk with her; If I had a

Continued on page 6

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# Election 2017: Candidates talk about issues facing the city

Cont. from page 5

concern, I felt she was there for me to voice it to, sometimes, light was brought on the situation for her and sometimes for me. I don't have the education to run a city, and that's why I trust the City Manager to run the day to day operations; as detailed in our City Charter. I believe the City Council needs to know what its role is, as City Councilmembers, and stop trying to interfere in the City Manager's job.

Yes, we may technically be their "boss" but none of us have the education or background to manage a City, so we need to find a candidate that has that background and help them follow through on what their position is, rather than meddle with the day to day job.

## Talk about economic development. How can the city spur economic growth?

I think qualified people have been hired that will continue to move the City forward. We have new businesses coming into town with owners that want to live here as well. I think we need to continue moving forward and keep selling the City for what it is; A walkable community, a city that gives of that "community" feeling, a place that people want to live and work. We need to keep moving forward making changes to our Zoning Ordinances that adapt for the changing times, and the ever changing community needs.

## How can the city encourage commercial property owners to fill their retail spaces?

I don't know what the answer is to the issue with commercial property owners filling their retail spaces. It's tough, we have to somehow work with them to lower their leasing prices, to entice more "Mom and Pop" type businesses, because that is what this City was built on and continues to be.

I don't have any immediate answers, as that's not my background, but I am willing to work with anyone if they have ideas, or comments on how they think we can change the current relationship.



**NAME:** Nayeem Choudhury  
**Education:** Phoenix University; Currently enrolled and working on bachelor's degree  
**Employment:** Managing director at Walee Enterprise Incorporated  
**Experience in government/municipal affairs:** Veteran at government affairs through assistance and service for residents as a translator, advisor and document prepara-

tions for legal matters

## As a challenger or incumbent, explain why you are running for office:

I plan to help my community by advocating for their causes such as lowering utility costs, improving social service assistance, create a safer environment for every family and localize the city's funding to ensure economic stability, cultural unification, and governmental cooperation with its residents.

## What are the city's top three challenges, as you see it?

Budget management, youth involvement and economic development are three of the major challenges the city of Hamtramck must overcome to develop.

## How would you solve/meet these challenges?

Communication of city officials with concerns from residents, a successful budget structure supports our neighbor-

hoods and our young people. We'll be able to demolish dangerous buildings and invest more in summer youth employment.

## The city is transitioning back to full local control. What will you do to facilitate this transition if elected?

If elected, I will strive to work with the mayor and fellow councilman in continuing the transition to full local control. It will be necessary to work with different departments in finding beneficial solutions that are for the city and most importantly its residents.

## What will you do to prevent the city from falling into another financial crisis?

The simplest solution in preventing a financial crisis is constant overlook on city budget and expense to avoid a collapse in the city financial management. Needless to say, solely relying on city managers will not be enough to secure finan-

cial stability. We will have to work with professional economic strategists to discuss solutions in guarantee a financial crisis is avoided without great expense to residents.

## Talk about the city's budget. Do you think there should be some changes to where money is spent or changes to any department or service?

The city's budget is an underlying concern for the residents and city officials. Although there are some departments that require more money than others, I strongly believe that with the support of the mayor and the unity of its councilman's, there will be a solution with the city managers on understanding which departments require more expenses and how to attain them while keeping all other departments with its required amount needed to service the residents of Hamtramck.

## The city has had a problem in getting along with

its city managers. What has been going wrong in this relationship, and how can the city avoid the constant change in management?

Organization and communication are key fundamentals in any relationship. When there is no mutual understanding between city managers and residents, no progress can be achieved. It is necessary for city managers and residents to discuss on a regular basis to avoid any misrepresentation in finding solutions to benefit the city and residents.

## Talk about economic development. How can the city spur economic growth? How can the city encourage commercial property owners to fill their retail spaces?

Economic development can be done through localizing funds, stimulate business owners marketability, and encourage residents to shop locally resulting in a growth for city funding that will be spent towards them.

## Obituaries

### MATHIS

 Carol Dianne Mathis, 75, died July 11, 2017.

Carol was born on January 22, 1942, in Hamtramck, to Sophie and Stanley Matuszczak. She was the youngest of two children. She attended St. Florian School in Hamtramck and graduated from Hazel Park High School. She worked as a waitress at Jack & Jill's restaurant on McNichols. Carol was the loving and caring mother of Donna, Joseph (Kristie), Jennifer and Susan; grandmother of Melissa, Joseph (Crystal), Darrious, Shawntell, Alyssa, Derrick and Johnia; great-grandmother of Robert, Malik and D'Angelo.

Carol was predeceased into God's care by parents, Sophie and Stanley; brother, Stanley Jr.; grandchildren, Timothy and Keenan Jr. She spent many years waitressing. She loved the casino, scratch off tickets, the dollar store, her cat and dogs. She loved to be surrounded by family and friends. Her kindness and gentleness will be greatly missed. Carol leaves many cherished friends and relatives, "To know

her was to love her."

Visitation is Friday July 14, at Krot Funeral Home in Hamtramck, from 4 to 8 p.m. with Scripture Service at 7 p.m. Services conclude at the funeral home.

### SROKA



Sophia D. Sroka, 98, died July 10, 2017.

Mrs. Sroka was a retired retail assistant. She was employed at Federal's Department Store and Crowley-Milner. Mrs. Sroka was a member of Queen of Apostles Seniors, Rainbow Seniors, Transfiguration Seniors, and Daughters of Isabella Mystical Rose Circle.

Mrs. Sroka was predeceased by her husband, Adolph. She is survived by numerous nieces and nephews; great grandchildren and nephews; many good friends and neighbors.

Visitation is only at Queen of Apostles Church, in Hamtramck, Saturday, July 15, where Mrs. Sroka will lie in state at 10 a.m., until the Mass of Christian Burial at 11 a.m. Arrangements were entrusted to Krot Funeral Home in Hamtramck.



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By Charles Sercombe  
This week's Crime Log covers July 4-10.

**Tuesday, July 4**

- At about 11:30 p.m. a resident in the 2200 block of Danforth was arrested for being disorderly.
- A Neibel resident reported a possible break-in at a neighbor's house. Officers checked the house but found no sign of a break-in.
- At 1:30 a.m. a resident reported being robbed in the housing projects.
- At 2:15 a.m. a Detroit resident was arrested after leaving a nightclub for possessing a loaded .38 revolver without a permit.
- At about 7:15 a.m. a resident reported a male on a bicycle robbed him of his wallet and \$30.
- A Lumpkin resident was arrested for domestic violence.
- A Selfridge resident reported her sons were assaulted by unknown suspects.

**Wednesday, June 5**

- At almost 11:30 p.m. two residents were arrested in the 2600 block of Evaline for assault and battery.
- At almost 5 a.m. a Yemans resident reported an attempted break-in. Officers collected DNA evidence at the scene.
- Officers rescued a resident in the 5100 block who was trapped in his garage by a loose dog.
- Two Detroit residents were arrested for retail fraud and possessing a stolen vehicle.
- A Hanley resident reported being assaulted inside of his residence.

**Thursday, July 6**

- At a little after 11 p.m. a Grand Haven resident reported being harassed by neighborhood youths.
- At about 2:30 a.m. a resident was arrested after a traffic stop for drunk driving, possessing narcotics and driving without a license.

**Continued on page 8**

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Coming events

**THURSDAY, July 27, 6:30 p.m.** – Music in the Park returns to Zussman Park, located across from Hamtramck City Hall. The vocal group Street Corner will perform, featuring classic oldies and Motown.

**SATURDAY, August 12, 9-3 p.m.** – Hamtramck's Recycle Center is open at Caniff and McDougall. Drop off your recyclables for free.

**WEDNESDAYS, 7 p.m., every second Wednesday of the month** – The 3C7 and Midtown Block meets at 2339 Caniff PCS Senior Day Center. This block club includes all residents and businesses west of Jos. Campau and north of Holbrook.

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(Perhaps at times, whenever I get some freedom to write, I'll try my best to write about issues that affect you financially, and try to problem solve to the best of my ability. This is my perspective. What is yours? I'd like to know. Please email us at [news@thehamtramckreview.com](mailto:news@thehamtramckreview.com).)



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