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Volume 15 No. 32

**August 11, 2023**

**50¢**

# The Review

*Hamtramck*



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## Quick Hits

# Get back in the school spirit

By Charles Sercombe

We hate to be the bearer of bad news, but sorry kids, your summer vacation is fast coming to an end. It's time to start getting back in the school mode.

And a great way to do just that is checking out the Hamtramck Public School District's Family Fun Fair this Wednesday, Aug. 16, at Pulaski Park.

The fun starts at 11 a.m. and goes to 2 p.m.

There will be some freebies offered, such as backpacks, but get there early: these items tend to go fast.

Also on hand will be various entertainments, such as “Jazzy the Clown,” free snacks and fun activities.

HPS staffers will be on hand to greet you and get you familiar with what the school district has to offer.

For youngsters, you'll be able to bounce around in inflatables.

Be sure to take home some free books, and get a head start on getting back into learning.

The new school year starts on the Tuesday after Labor Day, Sept. 5.

## — HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

# City, schools and non-profit in line for big bucks in state budget

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck is getting a huge financial lift from the state's new 2024 budget.

That budget includes \$500,000 for a local non-profit organization, NAYA, where Hamtramck's State Senator Stephanie Chang(D-Detroit), and State Representative Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck) have an office.

NAYA is the National Associations of Yemeni Americans.

State Rep. Aiyash is a Yemeni-American.

The state's new bi-partisan 2024 budget carves out \$15 million to the city.

The public school district is also in line to get almost \$4 million in additional state financing in this new budget.

The school district is not only getting almost \$4 million in extra financial aid, but it was also awarded – by the state, just a few weeks ago – \$2 million to hire “learning coaches.”

Gov. Whitmer has made it a priority to shore up school districts statewide.



**State Sen. Stephanie Chang (D-Detroit), whose district includes Hamtramck, shows off a new office for the NAYA organization on Jos. Campau. NAYA offers behavioral services. The new NAYA office is also where Chang and State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck) have an office. Photo by NAYA**

This is the financial news that State Rep. Aiyash has been hinting about for the past few weeks.

The Review reached out to the governor's office for details, and this is what Stacey LaRouche, Press Secretary for the governor, says is what Hamtramck will be receiving:

- \$5 million for water infrastructure
- \$260,000 for side-

walk and alley repairs

- \$500,000 for the Yemeni Foundation, located in Hamtramck

- Revenue sharing for fiscal year 2024 is \$6,462,659

- Hamtramck Public Schools will receive \$3,995,841 in additional revenue, or \$1,347 additional per pupil

State Rep. Aiyash, who is the Majority Floor Leader in the Democratically-controlled state legisla-

ture, told The Review that the city will actually be getting \$10 million for water infrastructure instead of \$5 million.

As for the financial windfall Hamtramck will be receiving, Aiyash told The Review: “These budget wins are the largest appropriations to the City of Hamtramck in state history.”

The Review asked the governor's press secretary,

**Continued on page 2**

## School district is big loser in election

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck voters torpedoed the Hamtramck Public School District's request for the renewal of a “sinking fund” millage renewal during Tuesday's primary election.

That rejection, by a 2-to-1 margin, was a shocker for some in the school district, although it appears to be a sign of things to come for other millage requests by the city and school district down the road.

The only other issue on Tuesday's ballot for Hamtramck voters was the city council candidate race.

All three city council incumbents survived, but Councilmember Mohammed Hassan might be in trouble in the November General Election when Tuesday's top six vote-getters will faceoff to see who grabs three council chairs next year.

Councilmembers Nayeem Choudhury and Mohammed Alsomiri were the top two vote-getters, while challenger Lynn Blasey came in third, with Hassan just four votes behind her.

The top six include:

- Nayeem Choudhury: 858 votes
- Mohammed Alsomiri: 853 votes
- Lynn Blasey: 813 votes
- Mohammed Hassan: 809 votes
- Muhtasin Sadman: 689 votes
- Nasr Hussain: 427 votes

The following candidates were eliminated:

- Yousef Saed: 395 votes
- Sari Ahmed: 291 votes
- Ruhel Amin: 113 votes
- Write-in votes: 42

Hamtramck voters overwhelmingly rejected the 3-mill school millage re-

**Continued on page 2**



**Mayor Amer Ghalib (left) poses with former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn (center) at a recent event that Flynn was speaking at. Flynn has been criticized for his rightwing political views and for being part of the QAnon movement. Also in the photo is a campaign consultant for Ghalib, Adam Alharbi.**

## Mayor Ghalib and his campaign consultant: ‘In like Flynn’?

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Amer Ghalib has once again found himself in the middle of a political controversy.

Ghalib, who is the city's first Yemeni-American to become Hamtramck's mayor, was previously criticized by the LGBTQ community and their supporters after he and the city council banned the display of pride flags on public property.

This past week, Ghalib

was criticized on social media for going to an event where former National Security Advisor Michael Flynn was speaking.

Ghalib and his campaign consultant, Adam Alharbi, posed for a photo with Flynn at a recent event in Sterling Heights.

Flynn, a right-wing conservative, served as National Security Advisor for former President Trump –

**Continued on page 5**





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## City, schools and non-profit in line for big bucks in state budget

Continued from front page

tary Stacey LaRouche for an explanation of the appropriation of \$500,000 to the “Yemeni Foundation,” and LaRouche said she had no other information about the organization.

However, she suggested, in an email to The Review, “It looks like it was sponsored by the Senate, so they might have more, if you reach out to them.”

The Review reached out State Sen. Chang, whose district includes Hamtramck, on whether she proposed that financial award. Chang did not respond by the time The

Review went to press on Thursday.

Aiyash, however, told The Review, in an email, that the \$500,000 is for “NAYA’s behavioral health program that opened on Jos. Campau.”

The NAYA office recently opened at 11521 Jos. Campau, and it’s a clinic that specializes in providing services for people with behavioral issues. It also provides a wide-range of other social services.

NAYA also has an office in Dearborn, on Dix. Rd.

Gov. Whitmer, who is also a Democrat, said,

in a press release about the coming 2024 budget (which is being touted as “Make it in Michigan”):

“The Make it in Michigan budget will lower costs, deliver on the issues that make a real difference in people’s lives, and help anyone ‘make it’ in Michigan,” said Whitmer.

“The budget protects public safety, and improves access to health care, ensuring people feel safe in their neighborhood and have access to quality, affordable care that meets their needs.

“It supports our service

members and veterans, connecting them and their families with the resources they deserve, and will build up all kinds of infrastructure so every family has safe roads, clean water, and affordable housing.

“Finally, it continues powering our economic development efforts to create tens of thousands of good-paying jobs, and bring manufacturing and supply chains home to Michigan. ...”

The 2024 state budget totals \$81.7 billion.

## School district is big loser in election

Continued from front page

newal: 1,507 (no) to 757 (yes).

Wayne County Commissioner Martha Scott, whose district includes Hamtramck, had harsh words for the district at Wednesday’s monthly school board meeting.

Scott said she had been made aware of a number of troubling issues that the district has been facing for the past couple of years, and said:

“There were so many things I heard,” Scott said. “I can see why your millage didn’t pass. You’re not doing your job.”

Had the millage passed, it would have raised about \$700,000 per year for up to 10 years. That revenue was strictly earmarked for repairing and updating buildings, making security improvements, and updating technology, among other items.

HPS Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed response to the millage defeat is on page 3.

Turnout was considered low on Tuesday despite it being a sunny 80 degrees all day. In all, 2,525 voters turned out, which represents 19 per-

cent of the city’s 13,249 registered voters.

Out of those voters, 1,531 voted by absentee ballot.

Voters whose precincts were located in the Hamtramck High School Community Center entered a sweatbox during the day. The air conditioning unit has not been working for the past two months, sources said.

While the weather was otherwise perfect, the day wasn’t without its drama.

Councilmembers Mohammed Hassan and Nayeem Choudhury got into a spat in front of the Hamtramck High School Community Center where residents in precincts 2, 3 and 4 vote.

Hassan accused Choudhury of violating state election law by being with-

in 100 feet of the voting precincts. Choudhury was indeed within that candidate campaign restricted zone on the sidewalk in front of the steps leading up to the building where he was taking a photo with a person.

Nayeem responded to Hassan, saying “You’re always talking.”

In another incident, a woman walking up to the community center was offered candidate information for Yousef Saed which she rejected, saying, “I am not voting for homophobic candidates.”

That reference was apparently related to a controversy involving the mayor and the city council, who are all male and all Muslim. They banned the display of pride flags on public property. That decision just several

weeks ago is still generating heated backlash against those city officials.

There was also some back-and-forth sniping online between candidates.

Nasr Hussain criticized Lynn Blasey for saying she was holding an election day get-together at Whiskey in the Jar bar on Yemans after the polls closed.

“Guess no Muslims will join,” Hussain said on the Facebook page called “Hamtramck Square,” in reference to the bar being a place where alcohol is served, which might offend some Muslim community members.

He went on to say: “A more appropriate venue should’ve been chosen. Maybe in the general election.”

## This week at the Library . . .

August 11, 2023

**Summer Reading:** This coming Wednesday, August 16th at 2 pm. We will mix the love for animals with arts and crafts. Following weekly programs will be packed with science wacky games, awesome crafts, and tons of reading. Everyone will get a chance to earn tickets to participate in the end of program raffle with plenty of prizes. Summer adventures await.

**Julia Child:** This American chef, author and television personality was born on August 15, 1912. She is recognized for bringing French cuisine to the American Public with her debut cookbook “Mastering the Art of French Cooking”.

**LOM Presentation:** This is for diehard Historical newspaper aficionados. It will serve as an overview of the extensive collection of local Michigan newspapers. You can view it on Thursday, September 7th at 6:30 pm. Please visit [www.michigan.gov/lmpublicprograms](http://www.michigan.gov/lmpublicprograms) to register and get info about upcoming presentations.

**Barbara Delinsky:** This American writer of romance novels, including 20 New York Times bestsellers, was born on August 9, 1945. There are over 30 million copies of her books in print. She is the author of “Before and Again”.

**Adaptive Yoga:** Summer exercise programs are offered on Tuesdays, at 3 pm. This will be the last session for the summer program on August 15th. The programs are sponsored by the RIM Foundation.

**Johann Wolfgang von Goethe:** This German writer, artist, and politician was born on August 28, 1749. His body of work includes epic and lyric poetry; prose and verse dramas; memoirs; an autobiography; literary and aesthetic criticism; treatises on botany, anatomy, and color; and four novels. He is the author of “Faust”.

**Story Time:** Get you kids together and drop in on our Wednesday afternoon Story Time at 12 noon. Presented by guest readers from Hamtramck Federation of Teachers.

**Leonard Bernstein:** This American composer, conductor, author, music lecturer and Pianist was born on August 25, 1918. He is the author of “The Joy of Music”.

**Game Night:** Join us for Game Night at the Library. We are serving up something fun each Friday at 4 pm. Stop by and let us know that you have come to play.

**Linda Newbery:** This British writer known best for her young adult fiction was born on August 12, 1952. She writes for younger readers and for adults.

**Alzheimer’s Association:** The next discussion to be presented on Tuesday, August 15th at 6 pm. The program will present an overview of Alzheimer’s disease and dementia as well as introduction to resources for caregivers and patients. The programs is presented by Alzheimer’s Association, Michigan branch.

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822  
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# Review: Opinion Page

## In Our Opinion

### Failure of school millage only punishes our students

Hamtramck voters have spoken, and have resoundingly rejected a public school millage request.

What a shame.

The only ones who will be hurt by this cruel thumbs-down are the school kids who depend on this revenue stream to help maintain their school buildings.

We can't say we are entirely surprised by this defeat. There has been a growing anti-tax movement in this town that is being encouraged by people who have no idea how cities and schools run, or even survive.

They only care about their own selfish needs.

Our public services, which include public education, depend on our tax dollars. If we want clean water, streets we can drive on, police and fire service, and an educated public, all of this requires paying taxes.

Unfortunately, one of the key anti-tax crusaders, Nasr Hussain, survived the primary election for city council. Hussain also wants to eliminate the city income tax, which produces \$2 million or more a year for the city to pay for services.

And while we are pointing fingers, there was zero effort by school officials to organize parents

and volunteers to campaign for the millage renewal.

Any tax proposal must have grassroots supporters to campaign in favor of a millage. What were school officials thinking?

There are no free ride folks. Our school district needs public money to educate our youth. It is highly irresponsible for voters to turn their backs on them.

We encourage the school district to ask voters once again in the November election. Hopefully, voters will be more informed by then.

## After millage defeat, HPS Superintendent says she will seek funding

In response to the defeat of a Hamtramck Public School district property tax millage renewal, Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed issued this response:

Though the Sinking Fund millage did not pass, our heartfelt appreciation goes out to everyone who exercised their right to vote.

Ensuring our facilities are up to standard and fostering a conducive environment for both learning and teaching remain at the forefront of our responsibilities. We truly believe that the environment we nurture directly impacts the quality of work and outcomes, benefiting all members of our community.

In our mission to provide the best for our students and staff, it's imperative that our facilities reflect our commitment to their well-being and success. While the landscape of funding can be challenging, I remain unwavering in my dedication.

I will continue my advocacy at both the state and national levels for capital project funding. It is essential that our students and staff operate in environments that are not only safe, clean, and healthy but also foster creativity and innovation.

With your continued support, I am hopeful that together we can make strides in ensuring our facilities truly mirror the excellence of our community.

Our sincere thanks to each of you who continuously support our HPS scholars and staff. Together, we strive for excellence in every endeavor.



### Fun Fair

The HPS District is hosting a Family Fun Fair on this Wednesday, Aug. 16, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at Pulaski Park.

### Free meals

The state's new budget now includes money to fund free breakfast and lunch for public education students in pre-kindergarten through 12th grade.

The state is allocating \$160 million to fund this for 1.4 million kids enrolled in public schools, which includes the HPS District.

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## Odds & Ends

### Budding author...

One of our favorite Hamtramck attorneys, Nick Frontczak, recently gave us a heads-up about his eldest daughter, Deborah Frontczak, who is in the process of writing a book.

The book, Nick says, is a novel "based on Polish mythology."

Deborah will be teaming up with her friend Ceil who is writing a book about Polish culture and tradition.

The two are having a reading tonight, Friday, Aug. 11, at 5:30 p.m.

We apologize for the late notice.

It will be an evening of readings, artwork and music, and a Polish meal catered by Srodek's. You can still get tickets (\$21.70 via online at "eventbrite.")

Deborah, by the way, is an incredible singer.

Here's what Deborah has to say about the evening's get-together:

"Hey everyone! As some of you know, my friend Ceil and I have been writing novels with a heavy emphasis on Polish culture and tradition.

"Hers is about her ancestors coming to Detroit and overcoming obstacles to make lives for themselves in a new country. Mine is a fantasy novel of good versus evil in an epic journey and battle to save magic in the Elven realm of Kraina Ciemna.

"We have Skyped almost every week for the last two years, helping each other stay on track and offering feedback in the writing process. While we haven't quite finished our novels yet, we've decided to start publicity as it is important to foster an online presence and a following to be successful in publishing.

"I would appreciate if you would consider attending our first publicity event! We will be doing readings from our two novels, displaying artwork from our novels, and I will be singing songs that feature in both our novels.

"And best of all, you get a Polish dinner as well! We are hiring Srodek's to cater the event with some Polish appetizers, a pierogi bar, salad, kraut, and probably some poppy seed cake for dessert!

"Please consider joining us for a lovely Polish evening! Tickets can be purchased for \$21.70, including Eventbrite fees, at the following Eventbrite link. Click on Register, then click on the link that pops up."

### Birthday milestone...

Man-about-town Steve Paljusevic, who just about everyone knows, celebrated his 50th birthday last week at Ghost Bar. Posing with Steve is Jeffrey Garbus (left) and former Hamtramck City Councilmember Scott Klein.

ed his 50th birthday last week at Ghost Bar, which is connected with Ant Hall on Caniff.

Steve has long been commenting on arts and cultural events in the city, and his friends include many of the who's who in metro-Detroit's arts scene.

A number of well-wishers, including former city councilmember Scot Klein, stopped by at the club, and it was one of those fun Hamtramck nights of old friends getting together.

Those fun nights seem rare these days.

Happy birthday, old friend, and here's to many, many more.

**Festival...** We recently received an email from folks representing the East Davison, Banglatown, and Hamtramck neighborhoods who are holding an "Inaugural Community Learning Festival" on Aug. 19 at Jayne Field.

Here's what they had to say:

"We'll have a fun day of activities while learning about our collective histories, cleaning up our neighborhood, inspiring our youth, and equipping residents with essential information to thrive in place!

"Strong Detroit neighborhoods are vital for a stable and prosperous region. Global Detroit's Opportunity Neighborhoods team has been proud to partner with residents to help connect families and small business owners to homeownership and home repair programs, foreclosure prevention, small business support, community engagement opportunities, and other essential resources to help us all put down roots and flourish together."

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## The Hamtramck Review

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August 4, 2023

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In the Hamtramck area

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**By Charles Sercombe**  
This week's Crime Log covers Aug. 1-7.

**Tuesday, Aug. 1**

- A theft was reported on Oklahoma St.
- A complaint was made about an animal.
- A Mitchell St. resident was reported missing.
- Officers assisted an ambulance crew with the birth of a child.
- At 10:30 p.m., a complaint was made about a disorderly juvenile on Grand Haven.

**Wednesday, Aug. 2**

- Three juveniles were arrested, in the area of Evaline and Conant, after they were seen looking into vehicles and then breaking into one.
- An incident of fraud was reported in the 3900 block of Trowbridge.
- At 4 a.m., a complaint about noise was made in the 12000 block of Dyar.
- Family trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A missing child was reported in the 3800 block of Comstock. The child was later located, and returned home.
- A disorderly customer was reported at a business in the 2700 block of Carpenter.

**Thursday, Aug. 3**

- A theft was reported in the 2300 block of Burger.
- At 12:30 a.m., a fight was reported at Oklahoma and Circle Dr.
- Family trouble was reported on Holbrook.
- At 12:20 p.m. a break-in was reported in progress on Edwin.
- A theft was reported at Jos. Campau and Holbrook.
- Neighbor trouble was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A suspect was arrested for an assault that took place in the 2700 block of Caniff.
- A possible fight was reported on Jacob, near Conant.

**Friday, Aug. 4**

- At a little after 3 a.m., a suspect was arrested in the 2600 block of Edwin for domestic assault.
- A complaint was made about a disorderly male in the area of Andrus and Jos. Campau.
- A complaint was made about disorderly juveniles in the 11300 block of Moran.
- A complaint was made about an "unwanted person" in a vehicle in the 2300 block of Neibel.

**Saturday, Aug. 5**

- An incident of fraud was reported in the 3000 block of Belmont.
- At about 6 a.m., a fight was reported in the 2000 block of Caniff.
- An illegal dumping was reported on Commor St.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 3400 block of Evaline.

**Sunday, Aug. 6**

- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the area of Jos. Campau and Carpenter.
- A trespassing complaint was made in the 12100 block of Conant.
- A theft was reported in the 2700 block of Belmont.
- A vehicle was stolen in the 1500 block of Commor.
- A complaint was made about multiple cars blocking Poland St. near Brombach.

**Monday, Aug. 7**

- A fight was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- An assault was reported at Conant and Caniff.
- A loose dog was reported in the 3400 block of Norwalk.
- An incident of fraud was reported in the 12100 block of Conant.
- A suspicious incident was reported in the 3800 block of Miller.
- A theft was reported in the 9300 block of Jos. Campau. A theft was also reported in the 9400 block of McDougall.

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*Obituaries*

**MATYLONEK**

It's with regret to announce the passing of Henry Matylonek, 71. He passed away in hospice at the Dingell VA Medical Center in downtown Detroit from cancer on May 22, 2023.

The family remembers him as someone who consistently tried to make life work for him, while navigating the impact and times of the Vietnam War era as a veteran of the US Army.

Henry was a survivor of many challenges that affected his personal health and well-being and those around him. Ultimately, he found friendship at the Michigan Veterans Center and Christian Science Reading Room; he found solace daily at Old Mary's Catholic Church in downtown Detroit, and in the love of his loyal canine companion, Corporal – also gone.

May God give him peace and rest. Henry is survived by his siblings and his son's family.

A Memorial Mass will be held Friday, August 18, 2023 at 10 a.m., family will receive guests at 9:30 a.m. St Mary's Catholic Church, 646 Monroe St., Detroit, MI 48226.

Inurnment with Military Honors at Mount Olivet Cemetery, 17100 Van Dyke, Detroit, MI 48234.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Michigan Humane Society in memory of Henry Matylonek and his dog Corporal, who he loved so much.

Funeral arrangement by Jurkiewicz & Wilk Funeral Home, 2396 Caniff, Hamtramck MI 48212.



# Mayor Ghalib and his campaign consultant: ‘In like Flynn’?

Continued from front page

for just a few weeks – before being fired by Trump for lying to Vice President Pence regarding a probe into Russia’s interference in the 2016 election. The former Army general was then convicted of lying to the FBI about those interactions he had with Russia. Trump later pardoned Flynn before Flynn received a court sentence. Since then, Flynn has become associated with the QAnon movement, which has been described

as “a political conspiracy theory and political movement. ... QAnon centers on fabricated claims made by an anonymous individual or individuals known as ‘Q,’” according to Wikipedia.

In another incident, Flynn railed against Islam, calling it a “vicious cancer.”

Flynn was also deposed by the Congressional January 6th Committee about his role in the mob attack on the U.S. Capital as Congress was about to verify the 2020 presidential election results.

January 6th Committee member Liz Cheney asked Flynn whether he believed “the violence on Jan. 6 was justified.”

Flynn answered by pleading his Fifth Amendment right not to incriminate himself.

He also pleaded the Fifth when asked by Cheney whether he “believes in the peaceful transition of power in America,” and went on to plead the Fifth repeatedly throughout his deposition.

In the PBS Frontline documentary series, Flynn has been described as “one of the most dangerous individuals in America today” by Ruth Ben-Ghiat, a historian

and expert on authoritarianism and fascism.

On the Facebook page called “Hamtramck Square,” where the photo of Ghalib posing with Flynn was posted, commenter Michael Patrick Nosbisch said: “Chumming it up with traitors. Great look.”

K. Natasha Foreman also was critical of Ghalib: “Seems like Amer has political aspirations beyond mayor, banding with far right QAnon cult followers like Flynn, as the presidential election looms ahead. Be careful whose bed you’re climbing into; bigots like Flynn and Trump don’t change their colors. Just hating gay people isn’t enough for them to embrace you.”

Former Mayor Karen Majewski, who has tangled with Ghalib over an increasing number of issues lately, had harsh words about this encounter on her Facebook page.

“Here is a first in Hamtramck history,” Majewski said. “The mayor of our city hanging out with a genuine traitor to his country, Mike Flynn. Unless his country is actually Russia, in which case he’s a valued operative. SHAMEFUL.”

Mayor Ghalib, a Muslim, had this lengthy response to his critics:

“I’m a leader not a follower of Democrats or Republicans. Whoever doesn’t show respect to my values and principles, they will not get my support and I don’t need their support either.

“The general asked to meet me while he was still in Washington; I accepted the invitation and

showed up toward the end of the event. We had a very constructive dialogue.

“I knew enough about him, and I clearly told him about our concerns and that we don’t appreciate the hate speech against Muslims that we hear from some republicans and he agreed with me that it must stop and a new page should be opened.

“The only way to fight hate is through communications and learning about each other, otherwise the wall of fear between different groups will continue to grow.

“And if I get invited by the president or the governor, I’ll show up, and I did many times, including going to the White House. It doesn’t mean that I agree with everything they do, but as a respect to them and as a way to build bridges, I would show up.

“I have read enough articles and received enough emails and seen enough actions to know for a fact how both sides feel about Islam. The coalition myth is just a big hoax that will not deceive us anymore. Actions on the ground speak louder than words.”

While Ghalib says he is not a “follower of Democrats or Republicans,” during his run for mayor, Ghalib accepted a donation of \$7,880 from a Democratic-leaning political action committee (PAC) called “Higher Ground,” according to his campaign report submitted to the Wayne County Clerk’s Office.

Those reports are public records and available

for view online for free.

According to Higher Ground’s campaign reports, which can be viewed online in the Secretary of State’s website, it donated money to a number of state Democrat candidates.

Ghalib’s appointee, Adam Alharbi, who was in the photo with Ghalib and Flynn, was paid over \$4,000 for his consulting services from Ghalib’s campaign committee. Ghalib appointed Alharbi to the city’s Human Relations Commission.

Alharbi was also appointed by the city council to the Zoning Board of Appeals, and is a member of the Downtown Development Authority.

Also in Ghalib’s campaign report, he paid \$177 for the services of an organization called ActBlue, which according to its website has “built a powerful online fundraising platform for Democratic candidates up and down the ballot, progressive organizations, and nonprofits”

In addition to that, Ghalib relied on consulting services from Ali Allam of West Bloomfield who was paid \$3,700.

According to Allam’s LinkedIn page, he describes himself as a University of Michigan graduate who has a “passion for progressive politics, data analysis, education policy and Islamic sciences.”

Allam also assisted State Rep. Abraham Aiyash, of Hamtramck in his campaigns. Aiyash is a Democrat, and is the Majority Floor Leader.

## Letters • Letters • Letters

### Litter is more than blight, it’s a ‘safety issue’

First, let me say that I love my Hamtramck community. The most peaceful, kind, and helpful people live here. Everyone gets along. If there are any crimes, it is considered minor.

You will probably never witness illegal drug activity. We have an outstanding team of police officers, first responders, and firefighters. I would say that Hamtramck is a relatively safe place to live in.

I suppose that’s why I have been a resident of Hamtramck for almost 60 years and have lived in three different homes. My family was educated under the Hamtramck School System.

My grandmother, Cora Carter, was a high school cook in the sixties and seventies and assisted in the Sarah Garrett Homes project. As a teenager, I worked in the city’s income tax and police departments for three summers. I was employed for 20 years in the legal field and am now a semi-retired paralegal.

I have voiced a few con-

cerns that have fallen on deaf ears. Over the past few years, overwhelming amounts of trash have been discarded and disposed of (intentionally or accidentally) on sidewalks, streets, lawns, alleys, businesses, and parks.

Grocery carts from nearby stores are found in front lawns and alleys. Overgrown grass and weeds are also present that belong to the city as well. I witness this mostly on Hewitt Street and other south-side neighboring streets when I walk my dog, Luke, every day. Unfortunately, it is in other areas of Hamtramck also.

This is not only an eyesore but also a community safety issue. This attracts crime and vandalism, eroding community safety and values. Tall grass and weeds also harbor rodents and other vermin, which are unsafe and unpleasant in residential communities.

To the best of my knowledge, the street cleaner has not cleaned the streets since the beginning of the pandemic.

Marine litter often results from poorly managed trash on land. If trash is intentionally or accidentally littered on the ground, wind or rain can carry it into the nearby waterways. The trash then travels downstream and ultimately ends in the ocean.

Also, it is important to recycle. If more people around the world recycled, it could help minimize the negative impact of pollution, including debris littered across land and water. Recycling helps to reduce the pollution caused by waste. For those reasons, recycling should be mandatory for Hamtramck households.

We should want to live in a healthy and pleasant environment.

P.S. In my opinion, cleaning up Hamtramck takes precedence over any considerations of a pay increase for the mayor and city council.

**Selecia Jordan  
Hamtramck**



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community and their supporters have experienced has escalated ever since the mayor and city council banned the display of pride flags on public property, said Josh Hansknecht.

Hansknecht is part of

"I speak on behalf of the Hamtramck Queer Alliance to say that we are very encouraged by the seriousness our local justice department has taken towards the recent outbreak of anti-LGBTQ vandalisms and hate.

thugs harassing the LGBT community are taking their cues from the mayor's and council's hateful rhetoric at their Tuesday meetings. ... The mayor and council are responsible for the hatred they have unleashed. They need to stop it."

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