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Quick Hits

HPS closed two schools due to threat

By Charles Sercombe

Some Hamtramck Public School students got an unexpected day off.

But it was hardly a day to celebrate.

Because of a threat aimed at Kosciuszko Middle School and Dickinson West, as well as an unnamed individual, the schools were closed Tuesday.

Both schools are housed in the same building, and classes resumed on Wednesday.

Police Chief Anne Moise said the threat had nothing to do with the events unfolding in the Mideast and Gaza.

As of Thursday, the day The Review went to press, there was no update on the investigation into the threat.

"We are aware of a social media post that was made involving a possible school threat and our detectives are actively investigating it," Moise told The Review. "We strongly encourage everyone to report any suspicious activity or behaviors to police."

The nature of the threat was not disclosed. Moise said the detective bureau is investigating the matter.

HPS Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed said the threat was received over the weekend. It is unclear why the schools were not closed on Monday as well.

In a letter posted on the district's website,

Continued on page 6

— HAMTRAMCK'S NEWSPAPER OF RECORD —

State offers a solution for loss of teachers at school district

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck School Board Vice President Salah Hadwan could not have picked a worse time to encourage disgruntled teachers and staff members to leave the district.

There has been a teacher shortage nationwide ever since the covid pandemic started three years ago, and the situation is only getting worse.

The shortage is so bad that Gov. Gretchen Whitmer recently signed legislation to allow retired teachers and public school employees to go back to work while continuing to receive full retirement benefits.

"I am proud to sign legislation making it easier for retired teachers and public school employees to get back in the classroom and continue making a difference for our kids while earning the pensions they deserve," Whitmer said in a recent press release.

In the state's new budget, additional funding is being provided for such things as:

- \$370 million to support teachers, including



Hamtramck public school teachers and administrators have been resigning because of what some say is a "toxic" work environment in the district. Their leaving comes at a time of a critical shortage of teachers.

continued support for the MI Future Educator Program (which provides a tuition-free path for college students to become certified teachers) and funds to retain and develop existing teachers through mentorship programs.

- \$76 million to expand "grow your own" programs, helping districts train staff for classroom roles.

- \$50 million to strengthen teacher mentoring programs.

- \$30 million to recruit, train, and retain early educators, with an additional \$15 million specifically

for rural areas.

Earlier this year, Hadwan took issue with teachers and staffers who were openly critical of the superintendent and the board.

A number of staffers have been complaining bitterly about a "toxic" work environment that Superintendent Jaleelah Ahmed and the board have created.

Hadwan responded by saying at a meeting last April:

"Nobody's forcing you to stay here if you do not want to be here for this district and for the stu-

dents. The door is wide open. We are not going to stand here and continue to tolerate threats of mass exodus."

After he made that comment, dozens of teachers apparently took him up on that offer and resigned, and to this day continue to do so — especially those in special education roles.

For over a year, parents of special education students have complained that the district has been unable to provide necessary services, and some parents have been told to keep their children at home.

At Metropolitan Bakery, there is much on the rise

By Charles Sercombe

One of Hamtramck's oldest businesses is about to expand its footprint in the southend.

And that will eventually mean more jobs — and income taxes — coming into the city.

On Tuesday morning, a groundbreaking ceremony was held at Metropolitan Bakery on Lumpkin, where several lots will be transformed into a stag-

ing area for trucks and much more.

The addition to the plant will mean less truck traffic on Lumpkin, which instead will be diverted one block west onto St. Aubin.

Company president George Kordas said the expansion is a "commitment" to Hamtramck.

Hamtramck is where Kordas' grandfather started

Continued on page 2

Ghalib to Joe Biden: 'apologize'

By Charles Sercombe

Mayor Amer Ghalib has some harsh words for President Biden.

Ghalib took issue recently with Biden's comments about the murder of a 6-year-old Muslim boy in Chicago. The boy was stabbed to death by an elderly white male in what is being described as a hate crime.



Amer Ghalib

Biden said, on social media, in part:

"This horrific act of hate has no place in America, and stands against our fundamental values: freedom from fear for how we pray, what we believe, and who we are."

Ghalib, a Muslim Yemeni immigrant, said on his Facebook page that Biden has himself to blame for this murder.

"You fueled (these) kind of hate crimes and Islamophobia by spreading false information and lies (e.g. beheaded babies and raped women)," Ghalib said, in reference to numerous media and government reports about the Hamas terrorist attack in Israel last weekend in which about 1,400 Israelis died.

Ghalib continued: "You make us feel unsafe by trying to justify your support for the criminal and unethical attack on the civilians of Gaza using lies and made up stories."

"Be a man and apologize for your moral and historic downfall, otherwise the blood of thou-

Continued on page 5

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Oct 28 – Feast of Saints Simon & Jude,
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At Metropolitan Bakery, there is much
on the rise

Continued from front page

ed the business 78 years ago, at two houses just a short walk down the street from the plant on Lumpkin.

The only company older than Metropolitan in Hamtramck is Kowalski Sausage on Holbrook, which was founded 103 years ago.

Metropolitan Bakery is well-known for the variety of baked goods it produces, many of which are distributed nationally. Chances are, if you eat a slice of bread at a restaurant, it came from Metropolitan.

Or, as a company press agent said, “the hot-dog bun you eat in Yan-

kee Stadium came from here.”

The expansion, which starts this month and is scheduled to finish next June, will add 30,000 square feet to the company's 20-acre site.

The development will include new state-of-the-art bun and roll lines, which will add 30 to 40 percent extra capacity, and also increase refrigeration and freezer capabilities.

On top of that, the company will be adding at least 25 jobs – and likely more, eventually – to the current workforce of 100, according to the company's press release.

Also according to the

company, the expansion will cost about \$15 million.

Kordas recently told the city council, when he was seeking permission to re-zone the former residential lots to industrial, that the expansion will also help “fend off” competition.

During that meeting with the council, Kordas was asked if he will seek a tax abatement from the city – which has become a common request by local businesses seeking to expand, or locate, here.

His response, at that time, was a solid ‘no’.

In the company's press

release, Kordas was adamant.

“My father and I didn't think requesting a tax abatement or a tax freeze from the city (Hamtramck), which has been a financially distressed city but is now on the rise, was the right thing to do,” Kordas said in a press release.

“Our view is that a financially stable city can do more for its people and infrastructure, better schools and improved public safety. Hamtramck has been good to us, it's a wonderful city, and the last thing we want to do is slow down progress. ...”

Police grant will be for new
‘de-escalation’ training program

By Charles Sercombe

Hamtramck keeps rolling in the dough.

This time, it's an \$800,000 federal grant for the police department.

We'll let City Manager Max Garbarino explain:

"Our police department, in partnership with Eastern Michigan University, received an \$800,000 training grant for virtual reality de-escalation training. This is really great news and much needed training. I am very excited for this project to get under way."

In the past, Hamtramck has been hit with several lawsuits regarding misconduct of police officers and investigators in their handling of the public.

It has cost the city hundreds of thousands of dollars to settle various lawsuits, and some officers were subsequently


criminally charged and convicted.

Garbarino said there will more information about the grant and the program at the next city council meeting, which is next Tuesday, Oct. 10.

This grant comes on the heels of others for street repaving, sewer


line replacement and the swapping out of lead water lines to houses and businesses.

Hamtramck also received a \$1 million federal grant to plant more trees, and hire a tree steward to make sure those trees, and others, remain healthy.



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This week at the Library . . .

October 20, 2023

Spotlight on Fold 2: The Library of Michigan will be putting the spotlight on Fold 3 in its next ZOOM presentation. Learn how to navigate this resource which offers users access to military records, documented personal stories, photos and more. Premiering on Thursday, November 2nd, at 6:30 pm, please register for this event by visiting www.michigan.gov/Impublicprograms and take a peek at the upcoming presentations.

Big Library Read: This year's feature is Olivia Stephens' graphic novel for middle graders, "Artie and the Wolf Moon." When your parents tell you to stay in at night, could it be because they do not want you to discover their secret werewolf identities? Get access to a digital version of this title at www.biglibraryread.com and join the online book discussion when it goes live on November 2 to 16th.

Chess Club: Something new just for you. Games start on this Thursday at 3:30 pm right here in the library. Open to newbies, experienced pros, and all those in between.

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.

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. Everyone is invited.

Ursula Le Guin: Looking for change in your usual reading diet? Try out the works of this author, born on October 21, 1929, if you like to partake in some speculative fiction.

Anne Tyler: If you prefer a novel with a strong focus on family, Tyler's books might be for you. This author was born on October 25, 1941.

Exercise Classes: You don't have to wait much longer to get your Adaptive Yoga and Tai Chi fix. The Tai Chi classes at 10 am and adoptive yoga classes are held on Tuesdays at 2:30 pm. As always, these group workout sessions are presented by the RIM Foundation and are open to the public. Check in the next weeks library column for starting time.

LOTE4Kids: This collection of over 2000 digital books in 50+ languages can be accessed by you anytime from your computer or other smart devices. All this is free with the use of your library card. They even have stories in ASL. Find a link to this awesome resource for kids on our website www.hamtramck.lib.mi.us under the eResources tab.

Incandescent lamp: On October 21, 1879, Thomas Edison successfully tested an electric bulb with carbonized filament, keeping it lit for over 13 hours.

Telegram: On October 24, 1861, first transcontinental telegram was sent from San Francisco to Washington addressed to President Lincoln.

Library is located at 2360 Caniff Avenue, Phone (313) 733-6822

Or visit its website at <http://hamtramck.lib.mi.us> for on line catalog

Attachments for printing, faxing or scanning send to hamtramcklibrary@gmail.com

Review: Opinion Page

In Our Opinion

City’s financial health: thank you covid money

There has been talk lately – or, to put it more accurately, boasting – about how great the city is doing financially. That part is accurate. But, according to a certain elected official, it’s all due to him, the council and the administration.

For the first time in 20 years, he claims!

To be fair, the current administration is doing a great job, and we are confident there will be more good financial news down the road. One administration builds upon the work of previous administrations.

But let’s set the record straight. The city’s past financial woes weren’t because of past incompetence. It’s always been about Hamtramck’s loss of tax revenue over the years, as industries and businesses closed up.

And then, there was the legacy cost of funding the pension, which has been an albatross around the city’s neck.

Two emergency managers did step in, but they, too, failed to change the systemic financial problems strangling the city – and so many other older cities.

All of that changed a few years ago when the covid pandemic set in.

In an effort to boost the limping economy with so many people out of commission and out of work, the federal government flooded local and state governments with money.

Hamtramck, like many other communities, all of a sudden was on the receiving end of millions of dollars. That also happened with the public school district.

And other grants and funding came in as well, thanks to work of previous administrations and the current one.

A change in elected officials had nothing to do with any of this.

But now, guess what? All of that emergency “Build Back Better and covid funding is coming to an end. The gravy train is about to a halt.

The true test is what is coming in the next few years, while Hamtramck still floats on what’s left of the millions of dollars it received.

City officials have been warned that the pension fund will continue to be a drag on financial resources. We have confidence things will turn out OK, but mindless bragging has a way of coming back to bite you.

Other Voices:

Guest Editorial

Fire department is busy spreading the word about safety

By Matthew Wyszczelski
Hamtramck Fire Chief

October is an extremely busy month for the Hamtramck Fire Department.

In addition to the normal training and emergency response schedule, October is also Fire Prevention Month. During October, the firefighters go to the local schools and hold fire prevention demonstrations for the students, and show off their gear and trucks to them.

So far this year, the Hamtramck Fire Department has visited seven elementary schools, reaching around 500 students so far, and we still have several more visits scheduled this month.

In addition to the school visits, the Fire Department hosted an Open House on Oct. 14, and still has the Public Safety Trunk-n-Treat scheduled for Oct. 25, from 5-6:30 p.m., in front of City Hall.

Also, beginning in October, the Fire Department conducts annual hydrant inspections. The City has over 500 fire hydrants, and each hydrant is checked to make sure it is working.

They are also checked to make sure that there is no water left inside them that could freeze with the coming cold weather. Hydrant checks will continue into November.

Lastly, the Fire Department has smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors available free of charge for residents; contact the Fire Marshal at (313) 305-4503, extension 225, for more information.



Above: Hamtramck firefighters talk to students at Dick-Insion West Elementary School about fire safety. Below: Each fall firefighters test fire hydrants throughout the city.



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Odds & Ends

Take a hike... Hamtramck’s new executive for the Hamtramck Parks Conservancy, Tom Habitz, wants to walk with you.

He is inviting the public to tour Veterans Park on any weekday during October, starting at 8 a.m. The meet-up is at Col. Hamtramck’s grave site.

He said the goals are as follows:

“(1) Gather ideas about parks improvements; (2) get to know good people; (3) get some exercise. No RSVP or commitment needed, but feel free to be in touch at thabitz@hamtramckparks.com.”

Trunk or treat... Hamtramck knows how to treat kids for Halloween. There are two “Trunk or Treat” events this coming week.

The first one is hosted by the city’s police and fire departments, and will be held next Wednesday, Oct. 25, at Zussman Park – across from city hall.

There will be activities and treats, and you’ll get a chance to see up close, and in person, police and fire vehicles. The event starts at 5 p.m. and runs until 6:30. Be sure to get in the spirit of the season by getting into costumes.

The next Trunk or Treat happens the very next day, Thursday, Oct. 26, and it’s sponsored by the school district’s Recreation Department.

This takes place in the parking lot behind Hamtramck High School on Gallagher, and it runs from 5-7 p.m.

The deadline to sign up to be a trunker is today, Friday, Oct. 20. To do so, send an email to: ccdesk-staff@hamtramckpublicschools.org, and provide your full name and phone number.

You have to supply your own goodies to hand out.

Remember when?... For those of a certain age, last week, on Oct. 10, there was a special anniversary that happened 55 years ago.

That’s when the Detroit Tigers clinched the 1968 World Series in one of the most dramatic series ever in baseball history.

Considering that 1968 was the year after the tragic Detroit Riot, or as many refer to it as the “Detroit Uprising,” that victory was sweeter than ever, and acted, in large and small ways, as a healing balm for a city torn apart.

Tigers pitcher Mickey Lolich was the hero in that series (in our humble opinion), winning three games in a rollercoaster ride of seven games.

Tax help... Need help figuring out payment plans for delinquent property taxes, tax assessment, utility bills and other financial challenges?

If so, carve out some time this Saturday, Oct. 21, which is when the county, through the sponsorship of County Treasurer Eric R. Sabree and the Judge Greg Mathis Center, is offering help and guidance.

The event is at the Mathis Center, located at 19300 Greenfield in Detroit, and runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Representatives from the City of Detroit Board of Review, the City of Detroit Water Department, the City of Detroit Assessor’s Office, and the Wayne Metro Community Action Agency will be on hand to assist.

“While we’re proud of the number of Wayne County residents who have been helped through the Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund (MIHAF) or one of our payment plan arrangements, we know that there are still those who may be facing some challenges,” explained Treasurer Sabree. “This is one of the many ways that we’re able to promote programs that can assist taxpayers.”

Customer Assistance Day is free, and no appointments are necessary.

The treasurer’s office also hosts monthly “Ask the Treasurer” meetings, has community ambassadors who go door-to-door, and participates in other community meetings hosted by grassroots organizations and elected officials.

MIHAF provides American Rescue Act dollars to help Michiganders who were impacted by COVID-19 pay back taxes and for other needs. To date, more than \$20 million has gone to assist 5,500 Wayne County residents pay their property taxes.

(For more information, go to treasurer.waynecounty.com or contact the office by email at taxinfo@wayne-county.com or call 313-224-5990.)

Covid update: For some, covid booster shots come with a price

By Charles Sercombe

If you got sick right after, or maybe the day after, receiving a Covid-19 booster shot, you’re not alone.

It’s been happening to a number of people, and, get this: It’s actually a sign that your immune system is healthy, and fighting back.

This finding has been widely reported by various medical journals and media outlets.

For many folks. the side-effects tend to last only a day or less, and may include headaches, chills, nausea and fatigue.

Also, many – if not most – people feel soreness where they received their booster shot, but then they do not get sick after it.

While some folks do suffer from side-effects, for those who don’t, it doesn’t necessarily mean their immune systems are not healthy.

There are now three sub-variants of covid, and health officials say the current boosters, in general, will be effective against them.

Coincidentally, this is also the beginning of flu season, and flu symptoms can be similar to covid. Can’t figure it out? There are still covid home tests to find out what you may have, and the government is now once again offering free home tests through the mail.

Do you get yearly flu shots? It is now generally thought that getting covid boosters will become a yearly ritual for many, just like flu shots.

In Hamtramck, there are still new covid cases being reported, and there has been an uptick in new cases during the past several weeks.

Since we last reported an update on the virus three weeks ago, there have been 23 new cases reported by Wayne County health officials.

The total number of cases for the past three years is now 6,228. The number of deaths has not increased for several months, and remains at 82 for the past three years.

The Hamtramck Review

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In the Hamtramck area

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City Council Candidate Forum 2023,
Hamtramck Drug Free Committee meeting on zoom,
Exclusive Conversation with Mayor Amer Ghalib,
ESL Classes for the 2023-24 school year
Local events, Library programs,
Interviews, Council meeting highlights,
Evenings with authors, and more.....

BECOME A LOCAL REPORTER: If you know how to take photos or make film clips on your phone, you can download them to Hamtramck TV along with a news story, to be aired the same day. Send in event announcements, comments to city officials, facts you want to share with the community, etc.

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By Charles Sercombe
This week's Crime Log covers Oct. 10-16.

Tuesday, Oct. 10

- At about 2 a.m., officers responded to a report of a disorderly group of people in the area of St. Aubin and Carpenter.
- At 2:30 a.m., officers attempted to pull over the driver of a black Volvo SUV, but the vehicle sped off.
- At about 6 a.m., a resident in the 3300 block of Doremus reported that someone unknown to them knocked on their door.
- An assault was reported in the 2400 block of Denton.
- An incident of fraud was reported on Belmont.
- A hit-and-run accident happened on Holmes.
- A disorderly customer was reported at a business on Caniff.

Wednesday, Oct. 11

- At 4:30 a.m., a complaint was made about a male who refused to leave from an establishment in the area of Conant and Caniff.
- A missing person was reported in the 2200 block of Alice.
- A theft was reported on Buffalo.
- A resident on Caniff reported an incident of fraud.

Thursday, Oct. 12

- A fight was reported in the 11000 block of Jos. Campau.
- A domestic assault was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A hit-and-run accident happened at Jos. Campau and Hewitt.
- A stolen vehicle was recovered on Evaline.
- A loose dog was reported on Sobieski, near Carpenter.
- Family trouble was reported on Caniff.
- A theft was reported on Belmont.

Friday, Oct. 13

- A break-in was reported in the 2000 block of Caniff.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Botsford and Jos. Campau.
- Gunshots were reported in the area of Faber and Jos. Campau.
- A vehicle theft was reported on Winfield.
- A customer dispute was reported at a business in the 9100 block of Jos. Campau.
- A domestic dispute was reported in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- A complaint was made about a juvenile

in the area of Trowbridge and Buffalo.

- Gunshots were reported in the area of Caniff and the I-75 service drive.

Saturday, Oct. 14

- A hit-and-run accident happened in the 3100 block of Belmont.
- A complaint was made about an animal in the 2300 block of Com-off.
- A break-in was reported in the 11900 block of Jos. Campau.
- A female was arrested for an attempted strong-armed robbery in the area of Jos. Campau and Goodson.
- A theft was reported in the 2600 block of Holbrook.
- A fight was reported in the area of Whalen and Mackay.
- Two males were arrested in the area of Jos. Campau and Holbrook for fighting and being disorderly.
- A suspect was arrested for a domestic assault that happened in the area of Goodson and Lumpkin.

Sunday, Oct. 15

- A noise complaint was made in the 12000 block of Selfridge.
- Property damage was reported in the 3300 block of Doremus.
- A theft from a vehicle was reported in the 2200 block of Evaline.
- A person was arrested for a domestic assault that happened on Selfridge.
- An assault was reported on Andrus.

Monday, Oct. 16

- A complaint was made about a juvenile in the 9400 block of McDougall.
- A hit-and-run accident occurred at Holbrook and St. Aubin.
- A break-in was reported in the 2900 block of Holbrook.
- An assault was reported in the 9300 block of McDougall.
- Customer trouble was reported at a business in the 8700 block of Jos. Campau.
- An illegal dumping was reported on Mitchell.
- A hit-and-run accident was reported on Burger.
- An assault was reported at Hamtramck High School.
- A strong-armed robbery was reported on Klinger.
- A theft was reported on Mitchell.

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Coming Events

SATURDAY, Oct. 21, 4-6 p.m. – Drive-thru Take-out Polish Dinner at Holy Cross P.N.C. Church, 2311 Pulaski at Fleming. \$13 Adult/\$6 Child 12 & under. Menu: Stuffed Cabbage, Kielbasa, Pierogi/ sour cream, Green Beans, Mashed Potatoes, Desert. Cars will be staged in parking lot for delivery in front of church.

WEDNESDAY, Oct. 25, 5-6:30 p.m. – Stop by Zussman Park, 3401 Evaline, for the annual Hamtramck Public Safety Trunk or Treat, featuring activities and treats and view police and fire vehicles. Costumes are encouraged.

Ghalib to Joe Biden: ‘apologize’

Continued from front page

sands of children and innocent people will be a curse that will follow you to your grave.”

According to the prosecutor in the Chicago murder case, the suspect was motivated after listening to conservative talk radio broadcasts.

The Review reached out via email to State Rep. Abraham Aiyash (D-Hamtramck), who is also a Yemeni-American and a Muslim, for his comment on Ghalib’s statement about Biden, but he did not reply.

Ghalib, the first Yemeni-American to be elected mayor in Hamtramck, also had this to say on his Facebook page about the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas:

“Peace can never coexist with occupation and injustice, anywhere and at anytime, no matter how strong the oppressor or how weak the oppressed is! There are enough lessons from history for some people to learn this principle.”

This is the full message that Biden released on social media about the murder of the Chicago child:

“Jill and I were shocked and sickened to learn of the brutal murder of a six-year-old child and the attempted murder of the child’s mother in their home yesterday in Illinois.

“The child’s Palestinian Muslim family came to America seeking what we all seek – a refuge to live, learn, and pray in peace.

“This horrific act of hate has no place in America, and stands against our fundamental values: freedom from fear for how we pray, what we believe, and who we are.

“As Americans, we must come together and reject Islamophobia and all forms of bigotry and hatred. I have said repeatedly that I will not be silent in the face of hate. We must be unequivocal. There is no place in America for hate against anyone.

“We join everyone here at the White House in sending our condolences and prayers to the family, including for the mother’s recovery, and to the broader Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim American communities.”

Ghalib’s criticism of Biden is a far cry from when he met Biden in November of 2021 during the opening of GM’s Factory Zero and posed with him in photographs.

On his Mayor Amer Ghalib Facebook page, he said of that meeting with Biden:

“It was an honor to meet President Biden today during his visit to Factory Zero in Hamtramck. I had the opportunity to talk to him about Hamtramck and its needs. I also had a short conversation with him about the

war in Yemen, how it affects some of Hamtramck residents, and the importance of ending it.”

Back in April, Ghalib and members of the city council met with Biden in the White House for a celebration of Eid that included numerous Muslim elected officials.

In the last several weeks, Ghalib has been all over the political map. He has been associating with rightwing Christian nationalists like Michael Flynn, a National Security Advisor for former President Trump.

At one time, Trump banned Muslims who were from Yemen, Libya, Somalia and Syria from traveling to the U.S.

On Tuesday, Trump said that, if re-elected, he would ban allowing immigrants from Gaza to come to the U.S., and would also expel immigrants here who support Hamas.

Ghalib has recently said he does not identify either as a Democrat or a Republican.

Over in Lansing, Hamtramck’s State Rep. Aiyash, who is the state’s first Arab majority floor leader, saw things get dicey for him regarding a proposed resolution on the Gaza-Israel situation.

State Rep. Bill G. Schuette (R-Midland) proposed a resolution that supported Israel and condemned the actions of Hamas, which the U.S.

government considers to be a terrorist organization.

According to media reports, Aiyash insisted that any resolution regarding this ongoing conflict include the “injustice” that Palestinian people have been facing.

According to the Detroit News, Aiyash said:

“Let’s have a full conversation and that includes the conversation around the occupation and the death of Palestinian civilians in this process.”

On social media, the response to his comments has been varied – and incendiary – as expected.

A person identifying as Tamara Oliverio had this to say about Aiyash on the Facebook page called Hamtramck Square:

“If Aiyash wants to introduce a resolution that addresses the points he made then he has every right to do that. It does not need to be a part of the same resolution. Both can be true and both are worthy of their own resolution.

“Blocking this resolution does NOT help Mr. Aiyash’s cause. It only hurts it.”

Nasr Hussain, a former member of the Hamtramck Board of Education and current candidate for city council, had this response to Oliverio:

“Would you’ve been OK with a resolution supporting Hitler during WW2?”

In the metro area, there was one rally held

in Dearborn – which has the largest Arab-American population for a city in the U.S. – in support of Palestinians.

Police departments nationwide have been put on alert for possible violence at protests in support of either Palestinians or Israel.

In Hamtramck, Police Chief Anne Moise said she has taken steps to ensure public safety.

“We have been stepping up patrols around the various institutions based on current world events,” Moise told The Review. “We strongly encourage everyone to report any suspicious activity or behaviors to police.”



City Hall Insider ...

*What is our City Council up to these days?
We have the highlights of the latest council meeting.*

By Charles Sercombe

The city council met on Oct. 10, and all councilmembers were in attendance.

Police Chief Anne Moise discussed an \$800,000 federal grant the department is receiving. The funding will be spent on a training program for officers to de-escalate tensions when on police calls.

The department will be working with Eastern Michigan University.

Moise said this program is “very exciting.”

During public comment, Bill Meyer said he is now back after missing the last several council meetings.

As for the situation in Gaza, Meyer said he has previously visited there, and he was “treated like an honored guest.” He said that Israel controls everything there, and its rightwing conservative government has created “extreme conditions” for Palestinians.

Moving on, he said that Hamtramck is now a majority Muslim city, and that some of the people who speak at council meetings do not represent the population make-up of the city.

Greg Kirchner, of Hamtramck Public TV Channel 19, said the recent city council candidate forum was a success, and that the forum can be viewed on channel 19.

Justin Jessop once again spent his three minutes to address the council by saying nothing in protest to the council’s new limit on how long public comment can last.

He held up a sign reading: “Every single Hamtramckan deserves to be heard.”

At one point in his silent protest, he asked the mayor to tell Councilmember Nayeem Choudhury to pay attention and not look at his laptop.

Not much later, Greg Meyer, held up the same sign in a silent protest.

Sarah Terrien also opposed the council’s new policy on public comment, saying: “I don’t really want to be here today, but I feel like I have to be here because this council continues to put limits on public comment.”

She continued: “The reality is, when you make unpopular decisions that affect the entire city, people are going to come to the meetings and tell you about it.”

She asked the council to reconsider the new limit on public comment.

(The new policy is public comment is limited to 30 minutes at the beginning of meetings and no limit at the end of meetings, although the council can end public discussion at any time.)

In new business, the council OK’d the purchase of two air packs for the fire department at a cost of \$17,518.

In a routine matter, the council agreed to renew an insurance policy for workers compensation.

A lengthy discussion was held on a proposal by the city administration to lower the purchase price of vacant city lots west of I-75 from \$10,000 to \$5,000.

In a note to council by the administration it said:

“The City of Hamtramck adopted a resolution to sell city owned vacant lots on March 23, 2021. Since then, many parcels have been sold in the center of the city and many homes are currently under construction. However, as of yet, no parcels have sold in the neighborhood that is west of I-75; the city owns a significant number of vacant parcels in this neighborhood.

“The Community and Economic development department believes that the market value is slightly lower for lots on the

northwest corner of the city, in part because it is separated by the I-75 Corridor and is further away from amenities including schools and grocery stores. The city would like to market these parcels at the lower price of \$5,000.

“In addition, this resolution will allow small lots on Dequindre, Dyar, Grand Haven and Woodland that are adjacent to an existing home to be allowed to be sold as a side lot without a development agreement, if it meets zoning criteria. According to the residential zoning requirements, lots cannot be combined that are larger than 60-foot wide and 6,000 square feet total.

“A development agreement would still be required for all other lot sale purchases. Due to the number of adjacent lots in the northwest corner, the city has noticed that there is interest in building larger single family homes or multifamily structures with 4-6 units. The Community and Economic Development department believe that being able to market these lots online and with investors at a new price of \$5,000 will spur such development.”

The council eventually decided to postpone making a decision on the matter.

Following a new state law approved by voters statewide, the council OK’d designating city hall the location for early voting that is limited to only state and federal elections.

Last year, Michigan voters approved a proposal to allow in-person voting nine days prior to a state or federal election. Hamtramck needed to designate a location to be in compliance.

In another proposal by the city administration,

Continued on page 6

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10:00-2:00pm

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GOVERNOR

City Hall Insider ...

Continued from page 5

the council agreed to set a public hearing on charging the owners of vacant lots and buildings a higher penalty fee for allowing their properties to remain vacant.

The new fees will not be applied to property owners in the process of developing their sites. Community gardens are exempt from this policy.

“We’re only going after land speculators,” said City Manager Max Garbarino.

He said the proposal is meant to motivate land owners to either sell or develop their site.

The proposed increased are as follows:

1. For properties vacant for 12 to 24 consecutive months, the fee rate shall be 3% of the property’s assessed value.
2. For properties vacant for 25 to 36 consecutive months, the fee rate shall be 5% of the property’s assessed value.
3. For properties vacant for 37 and/or more consecutive months, the fee rate shall be 9% of the property’s assessed value.

The Department of Public Works was given the green light to purchase equipment to maintain sewer cleanouts instead of hiring a contractor to do the job.

DPW Director John DeAngelis said the city has already spent over \$350,000 for this service for almost the last two years.

The purchase price for the equipment is \$760,000 which will pay for itself in 3-4 years. The

funding is coming from the Water Department.

During his comment period, Mayor Amer Ghalib talked about what’s going on in Gaza involving a war between Israel and Hamas.

Ghalib, who emigrated from Yemen, said the violence stems from Israel’s 70-year occupation of Palestinian land.

“Innocent people have been killed over the past 70 years,” he said. “So, that’s the root cause of the problem.”

Ghalib condemned “The killing of innocent people, but we also stand in solidarity with any country that’s occupied, and we support a free and independent Palestine.”

Mayor Pro Tem Mohammed Hassan, who is seeking re-election to council, responded:

“I will support whatever my mayor speaks, I support him,” he said.

Quick Hits

Cont. from front page

Ahmed reminded parents that threats have serious consequences.

“Please discuss with your children the serious nature of making threats, emphasizing that even off hand remarks can result in severe legal consequences, including charges for False Threat of Terrorism or Threat of Terrorism,” Ahmed said.

“Additionally, recent

legislation criminalizes threats of violence against anyone on school property, reinforcing the lifelong repercussions of such actions.”

Making such threats is felony, and those convicted face a prison term of up to 20 years.

Earlier in the school year Wayne County Prosecutor Kym Worthy issued a warning about making school threats.

“In many of these cases, the student who made the threat tells investiga-

tors that they were ‘just joking’ and seem genuinely shocked by how serious the consequences are for making the threat,” Worthy said.

“Often they make the threat thinking that it is not a big deal as long as they did not plan to actually carry it out. Michigan law, however, makes it a crime to make a threat, even if the person making the threat did not have the intent or the capability of actually carrying it out.”

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