

City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRENDA JONES

June 30, 2020

**STATEMENT ON RESOLUTION TO DROP CHARGES ON
PROTESTORS**

A resolution is being proposed to dismiss all charges against protestors during the recent George Floyd/Breonna Taylor demonstrations in our city. Coming from a union background, I am a strong supporter of peaceful protest, marches and other forms of direct action as a means of objection to injustice.



Over the past few days, my office has received over 100 calls and 804 emails from citizens in support of the resolution. While I welcome all feedback, I am concerned that the majority of communications came from cities like Ann Arbor, White Lake, Auburn Hills, St Clair Shores and Traverse City. I received emails from as far away as Salt Lake City, Utah. However, very few of the correspondence came from Detroiters.

I did not attend the marches nor protests. I did not personally witness the crimes for which some marchers have been charged. And, in accordance with our laws, and with respect to the three branches of government, I must allow the criminal justice system to address these charges. It would be improper for me to interfere with proceedings in the legal world. It would also be improper for me to favor one group of citizens over Detroiters who, I'm sure, would appreciate a council resolution to dismiss THEIR crimes. I will not support this mindset of entitlement or special privilege given to one group over another group.

In closing, I would like to thank the Detroit Police Department, a small group of local activists and some sincere protestors who worked to keep our city from going up in flames like many other major cities. I know that some changes must be made in the law enforcement system and I look forward to working with Chief Craig, the community and other stakeholders to build on the strong relationship of community policing that is the reality in our beloved City of Detroit.

Your Friend and Servant,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brenda Jones".

Brenda Jones, Council President
City of Detroit