

# MorningSider

MARCH 2015

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## DETROIT MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS RECAPS YEAR OF FAST-PACED CHANGE



On Feb. 10, 2015, Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan delivered his first State of the City address at the historic Redford Theatre. Kresge Foundation President Rip Rapson offers this commentary and analysis.

It was uplifting and sobering to hear Mayor Mike Duggan's State of the City address last night – a moment when the full import of the city's trajectory – past, present, and future – was cast in bright relief.

When Mike Duggan was inaugurated as Detroit's chief executive in January 2014, there was enormous hope – tempered by considerable doubt – that his administration would help the city regain its footing. As a candidate, Duggan had been unwavering in his commitment to move the city out of bankruptcy, return its elected officials to the powers and duties commensurate with their election certificates, and tackle issues such as blight, transit dysfunction, inadequate lighting and anemic tax collections, that have bedeviled the city for an unconscionably long time. After years of failure on all of these fronts, the residents of Detroit would have been forgiven for being skeptical that the candidate could deliver on such sweeping promises.

But, in one short year, the faith the city's residents invested in their new mayor has proven well-founded. Mayor Duggan has proceeded at a dizzying pace in throwing his enormous energy, tenacity, knowledge and skill into an ever-expanding to-do list that is breathtaking in its scope and impact, including:

- Introducing new tools to secure title to abandoned houses capable of being rehabbed and auctioning them to residents willing and able to reclaim them.
- Accelerating the removal of blighted properties that pose a public hazard.

# MorningSide

## Executive Board/Ambassadors



### President

Zelda Anderson

### Vice President-

Jackie Grant

Audubon Rd. /Courville St.

### 2nd Vice President-

Beverly Brown

Buckingham Ave. /Berkshire St.

### Treasurer-

Vaughan Tolliver

Three Mile Dr. /Bedford St.

### Secretary-

Claudia Meeks

Chatsworth St. /Balfour Rd. /  
Waveney St.

# THE WINNING NUMBERS

By Jessica Migala

## **2** HOURS OF TV YOU CAN SAFELY WATCH EACH DAY

Too much tube time increases the concentration of triglycerides in your blood and lowers HDL “good” cholesterol, which can harm your heart

## **2.7** DAYS YOU SHOULD STAY HOME WITH THE FLU

Anything less and you risk infecting coworkers, a study finds. Sixty percent of workers go to the office when they’re sick.

## **1:2** HEALTHIEST RATIO, WAIST TO HEIGHT

A bigger waist increases your risk of developing metabolic syndrome (a cluster of factors including high blood pressure and cholesterol), which in turn raises the chance of heart disease and stroke.

## **1,500** MAX AMOUNT OF SODIUM, IN MILLIGRAMS, AN AVERAGE ADULT SHOULD CONSUME DAILY

Three-quarters of the salt in your diet comes from processed foods, so sub in fresh whole foods to lower blood pressure.

## **20** MOST MILES YOU SHOULD COMMUTE EACH DAY

Longer commutes are associated with higher blood pressure, more worrying and chronic stress, a study on commuting and health finds. (did we really need a study?)

## **7** HOURS OF SLEEP PER NIGHT TO CONTROL WEIGHT

In a study of more than 21,000 healthy adults, those who slept five or fewer hours per night were 50 percent more likely to become obese compared with those who logged a full night’s rest.

## **60 to 100** HEARTBEATS PER MINUTE AT REST

A gain of just 10 beats per minute over normal increases your risk of dying from heart disease by 10 to 18 percent, a new study finds.

## **7+** IDEAL DAILY SERVINGS OF FRUITS AND VEGGIES

That’s more than the five a day you’re used to, but the extra can reduce your risk of early death by 42 percent, says a British study.

The weather forecasters say that our frigid winter is coming to an end. That means it will soon be time for Spring cleaning and home repairs. There will be some opportunities coming up for funding for home improvements. Please make sure you have signed up for our emails and you have "Liked" our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/MorningSideDet>). We will use these sources to inform you of the opportunities as they are announced.

Thank you!



**Zelda Anderson**

MorningSide President

## PROTECT & DISINFECT

Cold and flu viruses are tricky and like to hide around the house.

The viruses that can cause colds and flu have an amusing way of hanging out in your home.

### Where do viruses live?

#### Toys

Put cold & flu viruses in time out by regularly disinfecting toys with regular bleach.

#### Handles

No wonder cold and flu viruses hang out on fridge, microwave and door handles. Take care of them with disinfecting wipes.

#### TV Remote

Who controls the remote in your house? Viruses do. Turn off cold and flu viruses with disinfecting wipes.

#### Bathroom

Cold and flu viruses love hiding in your bathroom. Find them. Regularly disinfect toilet exterior, sink and bath surfaces with disinfecting bathroom cleaner.

#### Phone Receiver

Pick up the phone. Pick up something unwanted. Reduce exposure to cold and flu viruses with disinfecting wipes.

## MorningSide

### Members -At-Large

#### /Ambassadors

■ ■ ■

#### **Scotty Boman**

Outer Dr. E. /Whittier St,

#### **Eric Dueweke**

Wayburn St. /Alter Rd.

#### **Ulysses Jones**

Beaconsfield St. /Barham St./ Linville St.

#### **Paul Phillips**

Somerset Ave/Nottingham Rd.

#### **Pastor Darell Reed**

Lakepointe St. /Maryland St.

#### **Monique Tate**

Devonshire Rd. /Haverhill St.

# Important Numbers



## US

### Congresswoman

Brenda L. Lawrence  
(248) 356-2052

### Senators

Gary Peters  
(313) 226-6020  
Debbie Stabenow  
(313) 961-4330

## Michigan

### Governor

Rick Snyder  
(517) 373-3400

### State Senator

Coleman Young II  
(517) 373-7346

### State Representatives

(District 1) Brian Banks  
(517) 373-0154  
(District 2) Alberta Tinsley-Talabi  
(517) 373-1776

## VEGAN CAJUN HOPPIN' JOHN

- |   |                                     |
|---|-------------------------------------|
| 1 onion, diced                              | 15 drops hot sauce                  |
| 1 green bell pepper, diced                  | 1 pinch smoked salt, or to taste    |
| 1 tablespoon canola oil, or as needed       | 1 pinch smoked paprika or to taste  |
| 3 cups cooked brown rice                    | 1 pinch cumin or to taste           |
| 1 (16 ounce) can red kidney beans, drained  | 1 pinch dill weed, or to taste      |
| 10 ounces tomato paste                      | 1 pinch mustard powder, or to taste |
| 1 (10 ounce) package frozen black-eyed peas | 1 pinch garlic powder, or to taste  |
|   | 1 pinch dried savory, or to taste   |



### Directions:

1. Combine onion and green bell pepper in a skillet; add enough canola oil to coat onion and bell pepper. Cover skillet and cook onion and bell pepper over medium heat until tender, about 15 minutes.
2. Mix rice, kidney beans, tomato paste, black-eyed peas, hot sauce, smoked salt, smoked paprika, cumin, dill weed, mustard powder, garlic powder, and savory into onion and bell pepper; cook and stir until heated through, about 10 minutes more.

**Note:** Veganism is a type of vegetarian diet that excludes meat, eggs, dairy products and all other animal-derived ingredients. Many vegans also do not eat foods that are processed using animal products, such as refined white sugar and some wines

# DETROIT MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY...

Cont. page 1

- Intervening forcefully to try to mitigate inequitable water shutoffs and property foreclosures, and to rationalize the tax collection system.
- Securing federal funds to purchase new buses and improve maintenance of the existing fleet.
- Increasing the pace of reintroducing working streetlights to the city's neighborhoods.
- Reducing police, fire and EMS response times.
- Introducing 21st century technology to essential city functions.
- Embracing community efforts to reintroduce neighborhood commercial activity along some of the city's key avenues.

It would have been understandable had Mayor Duggan gotten lost in the city's spider web of issues and become consumed by the very real pressures of successive crises. By articulating an unwavering commitment to certain bedrock issues, however, the mayor has avoided becoming sidetracked by a crisis mentality. He has reinforced his focus by assembling a team skillfully tailored to solve the problems at hand.

Beyond the impressive particulars, three overarching themes strike me as capturing the true import of Mayor Duggan's first year in office.

First, the mayor has swiftly and successfully rebalanced the machinery of democratic governance.

He moved decisively to forge a strong and balanced working relationship with the emergency manager, assuming authority in sequential steps that helped smooth the transition of power following the completion of bankruptcy.

He has assembled a strong leadership team, balancing local and national talent: people with long-standing public sector experience and people new to municipal government, people previously within his circles and those he never met until becoming mayor. His team has introduced a truly impressive bandwidth of competence and political sophistication.

And most critically, Mayor Duggan has recast Detroit residents as the ultimate shareholders in the city's rebirth, articulating a clear and compelling vision of drawing on their strengths to rebuild the city in all of its dimensions.

Second, the mayor has provided unambiguous proof-points that municipal government is capable of providing the kinds of services essential for the city to stabilize and thrive.

The mayor has tackled with an entrepreneurial mindset both low-hanging fruit and complex, longstanding problems. He consistently asks his team – and the civic community as a whole – not whether something can be done, but how. He isn't afraid to take risks. He is constitutionally incapable of side-stepping an issue. And his method has worked, as the long list of accomplishments in his State of the City address underscores.

These proof-points have resonance well beyond the city. We have already seen evidence of this in the keen national interest in the New Economy Initiative's successes in promoting entrepreneurialism, in M-1RAIL's public-private-philanthropic problem-solving model, in the remarkable mapping and analysis of the Blight Remediation Task Force, and in the sweep of Detroit Future City's embrace of new possibilities for converting underutilized land to more productive uses.

As the mayor pioneers new methods to stabilize residential housing stock, free investment for neighborhood-based small business development, recalibrate delivery of municipal services, deliver consistently balanced budgets and countless other innovations, these lessons will find a powerful updraft in other cities across America.

Third, the mayor has demonstrated that the big ideas are often smaller ideas strategically sequenced and bundled.

The mayor's style of focusing intently on the minutiae of countless transactions might appear to some as too inwardly focused for large-scale change. That would, however, be a fundamental misreading of the potency of his approach.

## Important Numbers

■ ■ ■

### Wayne County

#### Executive

Warren C. Evans

(313) 224-0286

#### Clerk

Cathy M. Garrett

(313) 224-6262

#### Treasurer

Raymond Wojtowicz

(313) 224-5950

#### Sheriff

Benny N. Napoleon

(313) 224-2222

#### Commission (District 1)

Timothy Killeen

(313) 224-0920

#### Prosecutor

Kym L. Worthy

(313) 224-5777

#### Register of Deeds

Bernard J. Youngblood

(313) 224-5854

Cont. page 9

# Important Numbers



**Detroit**

**Mayor**

Mike Duggan

(313) 224-3400

**Clerk**

Janice M. Winfrey

(313) 224-3260

**City Council Member**

**(District 4)**

Andre L. Spivey

(313) 224-4841

**Department of**

**Neighborhoods**

**- District 4**

**District Manager**

O'Dell Tate

(313) 236-3518

**Asst. District Manager**

Toson Knight

(313) 236-3520

# PROPERLY DEFINED DEPENDENTS CAN PAY OFF AT TAX TIME

By Kay Bell

Your son is off at college. Can you still claim him as a dependent? The answer for most parents is "yes." But, as is often the case with tax questions, determining who can be claimed as a dependent is not always a clear-cut exercise.

Dependent claims aren't limited to children. An adult relative could qualify as a taxpayer's dependent as long as he or she meets certain IRS conditions.

| Dependency tests that must be met |                               |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| By a child                        | By a relative                 |
| Relationship                      | Not a qualifying child        |
| Residency                         | Relationship/household member |
| Age                               | Gross income                  |
| Support                           | Support                       |
| Citizenship                       | Citizenship                   |
| Joint return                      | Joint return                  |

Making sure the requirements are met is critical, because dependents can help reduce your tax bill. In many cases, you can claim certain tax-cutting deductions and credits related to a dependent. The key tax breaks associated with a child are the child tax credit, the child and dependent care credit and the earned income tax credit.

Even if these added tax credits don't apply to your situation, a dependent named on your return can still trim your taxes. Each dependent directly translates into an exemption, a specific dollar amount, adjusted annually for inflation, that you deduct from your adjusted gross income.

**Child dependent tests**

In order to claim a child as your dependent, the youngster must now meet four key tests:

**Relationship test:** The child must be your child, either by birth, adoption or by being placed in your home as a foster child. Even if the adoption isn't yet final, if the child is living with you and the process is underway, it counts. A dependent child can also be your brother, sister, stepbrother, stepsister or a descendant of one of these relatives.

**Residency test:** The child must live with you for more than half of the year. If the youth is away temporarily for special circumstances, such as for school, vacation, medical treatment, military service or detention in a juvenile facility, these particular absences still count as time lived at home. A child who was born or died during the year is considered to have lived with you for the entire year if your home was the child's home for the entire time he or she was alive during the year.

**Age test:** A child must be under a certain age depending on the particular tax benefit. For the dependency exemption, the child must be younger than 19 at the end of the year. However, a youth who was a student at the end of the year can be claimed as long as he or she is younger than 24. There is no age limit if the individual is permanently and totally disabled.

**Support test:** This refers to the youngster's contributions, not those of adults in the family. To qualify as a dependent, the child cannot provide more than half of his or her own support during the year.

Cont.

The support issue usually is not a problem. However, if the child is a successful model, for example, he or she could bring in substantial income and therefore might not be able to be claimed as a dependent under this test. Even then, as long as the parents provide more than the youngster is bringing in, then the child would still qualify.

## MORNINGSIDE BOARD ELECTIONS

Saturday, May 2, 2015 will be MorningSide's Annual Board Election. This will be your opportunity to get involved with MorningSide's organization, and be part of the planning and decision making process for our neighborhood. Officers (President, Vice-President, 2nd Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer) are elected for a two year term and Member-at-Large positions are elected for a one year term..

We are also looking for volunteers to help on the election committee.

If you are interested in running for a seat on the board, interested in serving on the Election Committee or just have questions please email us at [info@our-morningside.org](mailto:info@our-morningside.org) or call us at (313) 881-4704

More detail about the open positions, duties and qualifications will be e-Blasted and shared via our social media later this month and featured in the April Newsletter.

### Tim Killeen



Wayne County Commissioner – District 1

Serving: Detroit's Eastside, Harper Woods, all Grosse Pointes

Contacts:

313.224.0920 (phone) 313.967.1238 (fax)

[tkilleen@waynecounty.com](mailto:tkilleen@waynecounty.com)

[www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1](http://www.waynecounty.com/commission/district1)

**In the Community, Working with the Community, to Build the Community**

**Come and visit with your Commissioner at his monthly Chats**

**2nd Monday** – 9-10:00 a.m. – Grosse Pointe Woods Community Center – in the jury room around back. 20025 Mack

**3rd Monday** – 9-10:00 a.m. – Grosse Pointe Park City Hall – 2nd level – 15115 Jefferson at Maryland

**3rd Monday** – 6-7:00 p.m. – Tim Horton's – 19353 Vernier across from Eastland

**Last Monday** – Noon -1:00 p.m. - Monteith Library – 14100 Kercheval at Eastlawn

Paid for by: Tim Killeen For Commish, 16260 Lappin, Detroit, Mi 48205

## Important Numbers

• • •

### Detroit

**Building Safety**

**Engineering &**

**Environmental**

***Dangerous Buildings***

***Division***

(313) 224-2733

***Property Maintenance***

***Division***

(313) 628-2451

***Fire Department***

***Executive Fire***

***Commissioner***

(313) 596-2900

***Deputy Fire***

***Commissioner***

(313) 596-2900



## Important Numbers

■ ■ ■

### Detroit

#### Police Department

##### Chief of Police

James E. Craig

(313) 596-2200

##### Assistant Chief

##### District Chief

##### (Neighborhood

##### Policing)

(313) 596-2520

##### Eastern District

##### Commander

##### 5<sup>th</sup> Precinct Captain

(313) 596-5500

##### 9<sup>th</sup> Precinct Captain

(313) 596-5900

## DO YOU KNOW... YOUR RIGHTS AS AN OCCUPANT OF A TAX FORECLOSED HOME?



If you are the owner and occupant of a home in tax foreclosure AND you do not owe taxes prior to 2012 you can save your home from tax foreclosure about 5 minutes with a Distressed Owner Occupancy Extension (DOOE). All you need to do is complete an application and an income affidavit, and provide the following:

1. Copy of your current driver's license or state ID matching the address of the property in which you live
2. A recent DTE bill or other similar documentation showing your name and address
3. Recorded proof of ownership (e.g. a deed).

All documents must have the name of the owner/occupant and match the address on the DOOE application. Any name change (e.g.name change due to marriage) should be explained and documented (e.g. marriage license, divorce judgment, etc.). There are income guidelines for the DOOE, but these may be waived if there's a hardship. A brief explanation of the hardship should be made on the application and affidavit.

If you are the owner and occupant of a home in tax foreclosure. you MAY also qualify for a reduction in your taxes and a long term (possibly 5 years) payment plan to catch up. regardless of the number of years taxes owed. Your taxes COULD be reduced by thousands of dollars and you COULD get a payment plan for a few hundred dollars per month. IF YOU DO NOT OWE PRIOR TO 2012 YOU SHOULD STILL DO THE DOOE.

If you are the occupant. but not the owner due to the owner being a deceased relative then you COULD get free help to probate the home and take advantage of the tax reduction and payment plan.

If you are buying on land contract or with a mortgage you COULD still lose the home even if you resolve the tax foreclosure if you are in default of the land contract or mortgage. YOU NEED TO RESOLVE BOTH THE MORTGAGE AND TAX FORECLOSURE ISSUES.

If you are the tenant in a home in tax foreclosure then you COULD be excused from paying rent after April 1, 2015 and you could become the owner. BUT YOU SHOULD NOT PAY YOUR LANDLORD'S TAXES.

### **AND...**

Do you know that there is **free** help available to assist you in addressing all the rights listed above and others on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 9 a.m.to Noon and at outreach through the:



**TAX FORECLOSURE PREVENTION PROJECT UNITED COMMUNITY HOUSING COALITION**  
and

**MICHIGAN LEGAL SERVICES**

220 BAGLEY,SUITES 224 and 900

DETROIT, MI. 48226

(313) 963-3310 and (313) 964-4130

FAX (313) 964-1192

Tax Foreclosure Hotline:(313) 405-7726

The following events are for individuals living in homes in tax foreclosure

**Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup> (4—7 PM)**

**U-SNAP-BAC**

14901 E. Warren Ave

Detroit, MI 48224

**Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup> (11 AM—1 PM)**

**City Covenant Church**

13624 Stout St.

Detroit, MI 48223

**Saturday, March 14<sup>th</sup> (1—4 PM)**

**Marygrove College**

Madame Cadillac Hall

8425 W. McNichols Rd.

Detroit, MI 48221

**Saturday, March 21<sup>th</sup> (10 AM—2 PM)**

**GESU Catholic Church**

17180 Oak Drive

Detroit, MI 48221

**Saturday, March 28<sup>th</sup> (10AM—1 PM)**

**The Samaritan Center**

5555 Conner Ave.

Detroit, MI 48213

**DETROIT MAYOR'S STATE OF THE CITY...**

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The mayor has indeed set his sights on the big problems. But he understands full well that each has to be unpacked and reassembled according to a systematic critical path in which each success is compounded by the next. It's his approach to housing and blight, to technological reinvention, to neighborhood commercial activity.

The truly big idea is that you assemble the parts of the essential machinery over time, ensuring that at each step of the way you adjust, realign and recommit to forward motion.

The Detroit Dashboard is the most tangible expression of how this administration thinks. It is a weekly view of the metrics on which the mayor measures himself. It's difficult to imagine a simpler, more transparent gauge of how the administration is building to a larger purpose.

The State of the City address was spot-on in its emphasis on enabling our city's residents to have access to the kinds of jobs, services, natural amenities and commercial opportunities they deserve. If the mayor's first year is any guide, we can expect concrete and compelling progress on multiple fronts.

Implicit in those aspirations is a need I know full well the mayor recognizes: to continue to work hand-in-glove with a wide range of community actors – residents, businesses, foundations, nonprofits – who have helped navigate the difficulties of our recent past by putting in place a scaffolding of initiatives, ideas and investments on which we can now build more fully. It is a form of distributive leadership, with each person, organization and sector playing a critical role. As Mayor Duggan turns to the future, he can take satisfaction both in what we have collectively accomplished and the profound promise of what we can yet achieve together.

**Important  
Numbers**

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**Detroit**

**Department of Public**

**Works**

Collections (garbage, bulk, yard waste, or recyclables)

Rizzo

(866) 772-8900

Street or Alley Repairs

(313) 224-0033

Sidewalks

(313) 224-3954

Traffic Signs & Signals

(313) 224-1610

Illegal Dumping or Rodent Baiting

(313) 876-0974



**A community on the rise!**

# Contact Us

Primary Business Address

P.O. Box 24690

Phone: (313) 881-4704

Email: [communications@our-morningside.org](mailto:communications@our-morningside.org)

Web: [www.our-morningside.org](http://www.our-morningside.org)

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Contact

Paul Phillips

(313) 881-4704

[Newsletter@our-morningside.org](mailto:Newsletter@our-morningside.org)

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