



**DETROIT CITY COUNCIL – DISTRICT 5  
OFFICE OF COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
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## **Council President Mary Sheffield and the Industry Standards Board Host Press Conference to Urge Arena Workers to Complete Critical Survey**

**DETROIT, Michigan** – Council President Mary Sheffield, Chairman Joe Miller, members of the Industry Standards Board, SEIU Local 1, labor allies, arena workers, and community supporters will gather on **Wednesday, September 4th at 11 AM at Spirit Plaza in Downtown Detroit**. The press conference aims to encourage arena workers at Ford Field, Comerica Park, and Little Caesars Arena to participate in a vital survey focused on their working conditions.

*"The establishment of the Industry Standards Board was a significant milestone, but the real impact lies in amplifying the voices of the workers. It is crucial for arena workers to participate in this survey to improve their working conditions and set a benchmark for worker standards nationwide. This work is crucial to building a stronger middle class," exclaimed Council President Mary Sheffield.*

The Detroit Sports Arena Industry Standards Board serves as a collaborative platform, bringing together arena workers, government officials, and employers to develop recommendations on workplace standards, including wages, benefits, safety, scheduling stability, and training. Over the past decade, Detroit has prioritized revitalization efforts with working people at the center, and this board reflects the city's commitment to elevating worker voices. The board's mission is also closely linked to the broader fight to restore local control and end state preemption laws that prevent local governments from enacting worker-focused policies.

*"As Chair of the first-ever Detroit Industry Standards Board, I am honored to guide the work of this distinguished and diverse group representing arena workers, management, and community stakeholders. With respect to the goal of increasing the levels of safety and working standards for Detroit's arena employees, this survey represents the rubber meeting the road down that path," said Joe Miller, Chairman of the Detroit Industry Standards Board*  
– Arena Workers

The 15-minute survey is part of a research initiative designed to assess job quality and the needs of arena workers at Comerica Park, Little Caesar's Arena, and Ford Field. The aggregate results will be used to compile a report that will be shared publicly and with the Industry Standards Board, guiding their recommendations for improved workplace standards. Arena workers can access the survey at <https://isbresearch.wayne.edu/>.

*"Industry Standards Boards offer a new way for workers, employers, and the city government to come together to ensure jobs in Detroit are high quality – which supports strong families, communities, and economies. Participating in this survey is an easy way for hundreds of arena workers to voice their perspective and help with this groundbreaking effort," stated Kess Ballentine, Assistant Professor, School of Social Work, Wayne State University*

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*“I have been an arena worker for over 28 years. During my time I have dealt with both housing and transportation challenges all while working two jobs to support my family. For over two years we were forced to live in a motel after rental rates soared and priced us out of the neighborhood we knew and loved. I currently take two busses to work because I cannot afford a vehicle and insurance. I am so thankful for the Industry Standards Board because I now have a seat at the table and a path to better wages, benefits and working conditions,” stated Annie Rose Douglas, PBS LCA.*

*-over-*

## **Industry Standards Board Press Conference**

**WHEN:** September 4, 2024 at 11 AM

**WHO:** Council President Mary Sheffield, Chairman Joe Miller Detroit Industry Standards Board – Arena Workers, Detroit Industry Standards Board - Arena Workers Members, SEIU Local 1 Membership

**WHERE:** Spirit Plaza, 2 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48226

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