

The Consent Agenda, per Council Rule #9 “shall consist of routine non-controversial items”. The City Clerk needs to stop putting controversial and non-routine items on the Consent Agenda, as this hurts public trust and directly violates the established City Council Procedural Rules. These items should not be on the Consent Agenda:

Consent Item #30 should be pulled for public comment. This item involves police funding through *Project Safe Neighborhood*. This program is known to be discriminatory, as Michigan Journal of Race and Law states “Project Safe Neighborhoods singles out African Americans by targeting only those communities in which African Americans live”. Such a program is clearly controversial. Additionally, an increase in award funding is clearly not “routine”. Sourced from the Michigan Journal of Race and Law here:

<https://repository.law.umich.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1114&context=mjrl>

Consent Item #32 should be pulled for public comment. This item deals with “abatement of public nuisances”. Half of the abatements on the agenda have been pulled for various reasons, making it clear that the nuisance abatement program is not being run properly. Errors in this process result in destruction of people’s homes and lawsuits against homeowners. Council should consider halting nuisance abatement at least until the City can explain to the public why these errors are happening. These nuisance abatements may be routine, but the recent issues with them are not and there is clearly controversy over how poorly these are being managed.

Consent Item #28 should be pulled for public comment. This item involves a deal with “101 East Grand Parking, LLC”, a group that includes the Cownie family. Council voting to approve actions that enrich council member families is controversial. This item involves a \$40,000 waiver to the developer related to the pandemic, while other programs like Nuisance Abatement are not being granted this level of exemptions for the pandemic. There was also previous controversy in this plan as detailed in this Register article from 2015:

<https://www.desmoinesregister.com/story/money/business/biz-buzz/2015/05/11/biz-buzz-jim-cownie-east-village-development-team/27148689/>

Consent Item #15 should be pulled for public comment. This item involves approving Tax Abatement Applications in bulk. Approving 155 tax abatement applications (worth over \$109,861,000) is a major action by the City. It is alarming that the City is planning to approve all applications, even though more than 30% of them were submitted late. The City is being inconsistent with how it treats late submissions on other City applications. This is not routine or noncontroversial.

Consent Item #7 should be pulled for public comment. This item includes \$250,000 for Police Station Masonry repairs, some of which are for exterior facades that are presumably not necessary. A lot of repairs are needed across the City, and the Police Station should not have this priority. The City is well aware that police funding is a controversial issue to the public.