

STATE SENATOR • HANSEN CLARKE • 1ST DISTRICT

# Clarke Press Release

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## **Senator Clarke's Utility Forum Draws Record Turnout, Helps Hundreds Prevent Shut-Off**

*DTE Energy, Michigan Public Service Commission and T.H.A.W. Help Residents Cope With Costs*

**DETROIT**—Senator Hansen Clarke (D-Detroit) was joined by Detroit-area utility interests and nearly 700 local residents last night for a town hall forum to address high utility costs. The event, held at the UAW Local 7 on Conner Avenue, included representatives from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC), DTE Energy, and The Heat And Warmth Fund (T.H.A.W.). The turnout was a record draw for an MPSC utility town hall, and every resident that attended who were at shutoff status for their utilities received a hold on that shutoff.

“I enjoy helping organize events like this that can immediately and directly help the people I have been elected to serve,” said Clarke. “But they’re only effective when the people who have concerns and need assistance come out and attend. Last night’s turnout was very reassuring, and I really feel like we were able to make a difference for a lot of people.”

During these tough economic times, Detroit residents are having a harder time keeping up with high utility bills. In fact, the cost of home utility bills is the number one issue among constituents in Senator Clarke’s district. To address these high costs and growing concerns, Senator Clarke has brought residents together with utility companies and assistance programs to help people stay on top of their utility bills and avoid service shutoff.

“I’m really grateful to all the people from DTE Energy, MPSC, T.H.A.W. and 2-1-1 who helped make this event possible and successful,” said Clarke. “They are able to provide the hands-on expertise that is necessary to explain these issues to residents.”

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