This is a summary for DPD command officers and other City officials on events that took place at Rouge Park on February 18, 2022. Until further notice, DPD members should keep comments on this issue restricted to the facts listed below.

1. **Initial Report by MSP**

On February 18, 2022, at approximately 7:58 p.m., MSP helicopter unit (“Trooper 2”) saw a fire in the woods over at Rouge Park. MSP contacted the DPD’s dispatcher center. DPD units were later routed over to Rouge Park to investigate.

1. **DPD Response**

At approximately 8:01 p.m., DPD units started pulling up at Rouge Park. DPD officers observed what appeared to be approximately 20 vehicles parked near a large bon fire.

1. **On Scene DPD Actions**

DPD officers broke into two separate groups. One group went into the woods where the fire pit was located. The second group of officers stayed at the trail entry. A total of eight DPD units, including one supervisor, responded to the location.

A DPD officer explained to various individuals at the location that a police helicopter had reported a fire at the location. The officer advised that if they did not have a permit, they could not conduct the activities they were conducting.

A DPD officer talked to one of the event organizers, identified as Antonio Cosme, at the entry point of the trail. Mr. Cosme showed the officer a digital copy of an MOU, which Mr. Cosme represented as a valid permit to operate.

1. **Review of Documents**

A DPD officer examined the digital copy of the MOU and made inquiries regarding a “burn permit,” which they did not have.

DPD later examined the document. The document was an expired MOU between the City of Detroit’s General Services Department (GSD) and the National Wildlife Foundation.

Furthermore, even if valid, the MOU only authorized the National Wildlife Foundation to allow “tapping” of trees inside of Rouge Park. The City also agreed to allow for a fire in safe location, provided that a “burn permit” was obtained from the Fire Department. To date, the DPD has received no evidence that a burn permit had been obtained.

1. **Closure**

DPD personnel advised individuals at the location that they had to leave. The DPD has received information that at least one individual lodged a citizen complaint against the DPD. However, as of today’s date, the DPD has been unable to verify whether the information had been transmitted to the Office of the Chief Investigator.

1. **Senior Management Review**

While further investigation may reveal additional facts down the road, the DPD’s Senior Management Team has reviewed the information available as of this date and has determined that DPD officers did not violate policy. The MOU was expired, and there is no evidence that any DPD officer purposely attempted to interfere with a religious or spiritual activity on the part of the group.

However, the DPD acknowledges that there is more at stake in this situation than policy concerns. The DPD deeply regrets that this situation occurred. We are now committed to working with this group toward holding a similar event in the near future. It is the DPD’s sincere hope that we can come together, learn from this situation, and foster a strong relationship with the Native American Community. The DPD’s Executive Manager over Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion and Deputy Chief over Community Engagement will be tasked with ensuring that this takes place as soon as possible.