



CityofWestland.com

From the office of **Mayor Kevin Coleman**



For Immediate Release

March 11, 2024

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Mayor Coleman and His Administration Meet with DTE Leadership to Discuss Initiatives to Improve Westland Power Reliability

Westland, MI– On Thursday, March 7, Mayor Kevin Coleman and select members of his administration met with representatives from DTE Energy to discuss the power issues that affect the City of Westland. The DTE representatives included Brian Calka– VP of Distribution Operations, Tony Ignasiak– Manager– Engineering, Kirstie Staelens– Regional Manager, and Barbara Rykwald– Manager– Corporate and Government Affairs.

Mayor Coleman expressed his concern about the power reliability within Westland. A lack of upgrades over the years, increasing number of outages, and long response times from DTE have continued to negatively impact our residents. Mayor Coleman understands the problems power issues pose and he is committed to working with DTE to find solutions.

The DTE team shared their plan to avoid future outages and what they aim to do to update their power grid here in Westland. This plan includes 4 initiatives:

- Trimming trees
 - Downed trees and branches account for 60% of the time customers are without power.
 - Westland is on schedule to have all trees in right of way near power lines trimmed on a five year cycle, which is industry standard.
- Updating existing infrastructure
 - DTE is and will continue to prioritize areas with below average reliability for improvements.
- Rebuilding significant portions of the grid
 - Older portions of DTE infrastructure in Westland are being prioritized for upgrades.
- Automation
 - New technology that will reduce the number of customers out of power and reduce the number of crews needed to address an outage.

DTE shared some resources that will be beneficial to residents:

- Customers can view DTE work in their neighborhood through this [link](#).
- Customers can view tree trim information on the DTE website via

following this [link](#).

- Report any power outages to (877) 477-4747.

"I want the residents of Westland to have power that families can rely on." stated Mayor Kevin Coleman. "I have heard too many stories of seniors having to throw hundreds of dollars worth of food in the trash, having to store their medications at a neighbors house because they have a generator and can keep it safe, and the list goes on. That is why I'm making it a top priority for my administration to work with DTE to improve power reliability throughout the City and this meeting was just the start."

For more information, please contact (734) 718-3888

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The City of Westland, Michigan's 10th largest city, has a population of more than 85,000 residents and is located in western Wayne County; just minutes from downtown Detroit, 2 airports and major freeways. The City of Westland's Executive Branch is led by full-time Mayor Kevin Coleman. The Legislative Branch consists of seven City Council members.

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