



SUPPORT US

# 'Rogue' ex-Detroit cop resigns from another department after losing law enforcement license

Despite the serious allegations against him, Officer Kairy Roberts landed another police job in Eastpointe

By [Steve Neavling](#) on Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 2:45 pm

SEND A NEWS TIP



Screenshot

Screenshot of video showing a Detroit cop punching a man in the face in Greektown.

A former Detroit cop who resigned in August 2021 after an internal investigation found he had punched an unarmed man in the face and then lied about it has left another local police department in disgrace.

The Michigan Commission on Law Enforcement Standards (MCOLES) suspended Officer Kairy Roberts's license on Sept. 15, preventing him from serving as a cop in the state.

The suspension was in connection with the two-year-old allegations that Roberts assaulted a man in Greektown, knocked him unconscious, and then failed to provide medical aid, an [incident that was caught on cellphone video](#).

About a year after Roberts resigned from Detroit's police force, he was hired by the Eastpointe Police Department, despite the serious allegations against him.

Eastpointe Police Chief Corey Haines tells *Metro Times* that Roberts was immediately placed on leave after his license was suspended and then resigned on Friday.

Haines, who wasn't the Eastpointe chief when Roberts joined the force, couldn't provide much insight into why the city hired him.

"Unfortunately, I do not know what the previous administrator used for criteria for hiring," Haines says. "It is my understanding that he was aware of the incident."

George Rouhib, the Eastpointe chief who hired Roberts, accepted a job as chief of the Rochester Police Department in May. *Metro Times* couldn't reach him for comment.

An internal investigation by the Detroit Police Department in July 2022 concluded that Roberts punched Marcus Alston in the face, even though he didn't appear to pose a threat, and walked away from him despite his serious injuries. Roberts then falsely claimed Alston had taken a fighting stance and assaulted another police officer, even though he did neither, the internal police investigation found. In fact, Alston was punched while he was asking for the badge numbers of police officers who allegedly assaulted several people while dispersing a crowd in Greektown.

Roberts resigned from DPD before he could be fired.

Alston's attorney, Johnny Hawkins, who is suing Roberts and the Detroit Police Department over the incident, says it was inexcusable for Eastpointe to hire Roberts and for MCOLES to take two years to suspend his license.

Hawkins is representing four people who were allegedly assaulted by Detroit police on the night that Hawkins was punched. Two of them, he says, were assaulted by Roberts, whom Hawkins calls a "rogue cop."

Alston's injuries were life-altering, Hawkins says. He suffered a concussion and herniated disk. A truck driver and youth sports coach, Alston couldn't return to work because he's unable to pass the physical exam.

"He was in pretty bad shape," Hawkins says. "The hardest part for him is explaining to the children he coaches why this happened and how it happened. All he was doing was asking for a badge number, and he got banged up pretty bad."

Hawkins says Michigan needs to do a better job protecting residents from abusive cops.

"As a country, we don't take police brutality as seriously as we need to," Hawkins says. "There is a great need for reform. The boys in blue are part of the biggest national gang in this country. They're protected, and whatever they say, goes."

Roberts's ability to move from one police department to another after serious misconduct allegations is nothing new in Michigan. The problem is so common that officers like Roberts are called "wandering cops." They're forced out of one police department, only to find work at another law enforcement agency, [Metro Times reported](#) in August.

In Michigan, like many states, there are no laws requiring police departments to disclose information about much of an officer's misconduct to another law enforcement agency.

Without reporting requirements, agencies are at risk of unknowingly hiring officers who left their previous job under questionable circumstances.





## FIRST HISTORICAL MARKER IN MICHIGAN HONORING MEXICAN COMMUNITY PLACED IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT



In an attempt to learn more about wandering cops in Michigan, *Metro Times* and the Invisible Institute sought records identifying all certified and uncertified officers in the state. But Michigan State Police declined our Freedom of Information Act request, claiming “the public disclosure of the information would constitute a clearly unwarranted invasion of an individual’s privacy.”

By withholding the identities of officers, MSP is impeding the public’s ability to track wandering cops.

### Related



#### [Michigan’s police secrecy raises concerns about ‘wandering cops’](#)

[Keeping the identities of police officers secret makes it impossible for the public to monitor cops accused of alleged misconduct](#)

Now that Democrats have control of the state Senate and House in Michigan for the first time in nearly 40 years, lawmakers may soon make it more difficult for wandering cops to continue landing new jobs.

In 2017, the Michigan Legislature passed a law that required police departments to keep a record of officer separations, and officers to sign a waiver allowing departments to view their previous records. But it didn’t prevent cops with significant histories of misconduct or use of force from being hired again, and didn’t prevent agencies from allowing officers to resign, rather than be terminated. If an officer is allowed to resign, the documentation required to be kept about their separation is likely to be much less substantial.

In 2021, Michigan state Sen. Jeremy Moss introduced a bill targeting officers with checkered pasts. But with Republicans holding a majority in the Senate, the legislation languished.

[Senate Bill 474](#) would have required police departments to report all use-of-force violations, in addition to the separation records that they’re required to provide to new prospective employers for their former officers. That way law enforcement agencies would have broader access to a job applicants’ history of misconduct.

After talking with law enforcement agencies about the bill, Moss says he’s received a lot of support to resurrect the legislation.

Hawkins says lawmakers should act with urgency.

“We need the legislators to protect the citizens in the state of Michigan,” Hawkins says. “If other states are doing it, then why shouldn’t Michiganders get the same benefits of cops getting properly vetted so our citizens aren’t the target of some rogue cop who has been allowed to go from police department to police department, doing what they have been known to do?”



[Subscribe to Metro Times newsletters.](#)

Follow us: [Google News](#) / [NewsBreak](#) / [Reddit](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)

Tags: [Michigan](#), [Greektown](#), [Detroit Police Department](#), [Eastpointe](#), [Eastpointe Police Department](#), [Johnny Hawkins](#), [wandering cops](#)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



### Steve Neavling



Steve Neavling is an award-winning investigative journalist who operated Motor City Muckraker, an online news site devoted to exposing abuses of power and holding public officials accountable. Neavling also hosted Muckraker Report on 910AM from September 2017 to July 2018. Before launching Motor City Muckraker,...

*Scroll to read more Metro Detroit News articles*

[METRO DETROIT NEWS](#)

[LABOR](#)

[CAR CULTURE](#)

# Detroit-area strip club says UAW workers get in free for duration of strike

Solidarity forever

By [Lee DeVito](#) on Fri, Sep 29, 2023 at 4:29 pm



*Shutterstock*

“Because of their hard work and dedication, we decided to give back during these times of uncertainty,” a representative for strip club Dream Girls Detroit says of the striking UAW workers.

As the UAW strike continues, a local strip club is doing its part to help out the autoworkers during their historic labor dispute.

[Dream Girls Detroit](#) in Lincoln Park says that it will offer complimentary admission for UAW members for the duration of the strike.

“The United Auto Workers are not only essential to the city of Detroit, but our country’s infrastructure as a whole,” said Andrea Woods, director of community relations and Finance for Go BFST!, which represents Dream Girls. “Because of

relations and finances for UAW, which represents Dream Girls. "Because of their hard work and dedication, we decided to give back during these times of uncertainty."

UAW workers must provide proof of employment to redeem the deal, and be age 21 or older.

Under its new president Shawn Fain, the union has launched its first-ever strike against all Big Three Detroit automakers at the same time. As of Friday, 25,000 UAW members are on strike across the country, seeking higher wages and a 32-hour workweek, among other demands.

On their way to the strip club, UAW members might consider stopping at Ultra Cannabis or the Greenhouse of Walled Lake, which are both offering deals on weed to UAW members for the duration of the strike.

### Location Details

#### Dream Girls Detroit

980 John A Papalas Drive, Lincoln Park | Wayne County

1 article

*Subscribe to Metro Times newsletters.*

*Follow us: [Google News](#) / [NewsBreak](#) / [Reddit](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)*

Tags: [Michigan](#), [Greektown](#), [Detroit Police Department](#), [Eastpointe](#), [Eastpointe Police Department](#), [Johnny Hawkins](#), [wandering cops](#)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



### Lee DeVito



Leyland "Lee" DeVito is the editor in chief of Detroit Metro Times since 2016. His writing has also been published in Hour Detroit, VICE, In These Times, and New City. He once asked porn star Stormy Daniels to spank him with an issue of Metro Times. She obliged...

SUPPORT US

*Scroll to read more Metro Detroit News articles*

[METRO DETROIT NEWS](#)

[NEWS](#)

[CRIME](#)

[POLITICS & GOVERNMENT](#)

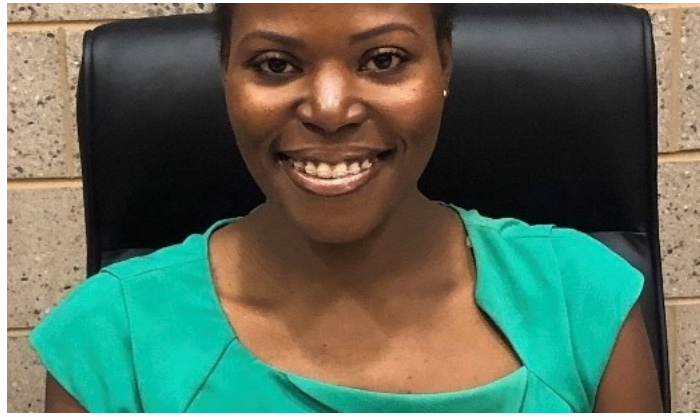
# Embattled Eastpointe mayor pleads to reduced charge after lying about COVID-19 grant

Monique Owens, the city's youngest and first Black mayor, now faces up to one year in jail

By [Steve Neavling](#), on Thu, Sep 28, 2023 at 2:11 pm

[SEND A NEWS TIP](#)





Eastpointe Mayor Monique Owens

City of Eastpointe

Eastpointe Mayor Monique Owens pleaded no contest Thursday to a reduced misdemeanor charge after authorities say she fraudulently applied for a \$10,000 COVID-19 CARES Act grant in 2020.

Before entering the plea, Owens paid \$10,000 in restitution.

No contest pleas are not an admission of guilt but are treated as such for sentencing purposes. The plea is meant to protect a defendant from civil liabilities.

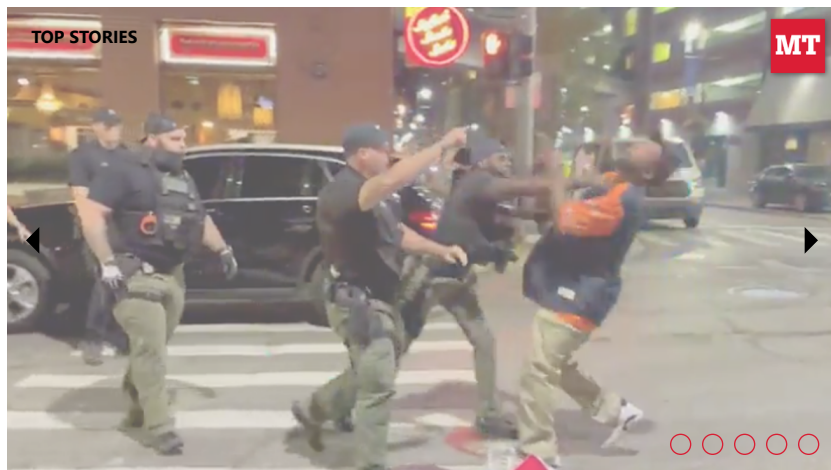
Owens's plea came nearly two months after she lost her re-election bid in a primary election.

In March, Owens was charged with a felony count of making false pretenses in 41-B District Court in Clinton Township. She had faced up to five years in prison.

Owens, the city's youngest and first Black mayor, now faces up to one year in prison on a misdemeanor count of making false pretenses. Sentencing is set for Oct. 10.

Owens was accused of falsifying information on her applications for a CARES Act grant in November 2020 by stating that her business had between 100 and 249 employees and was at least 51% veteran-owned.

"When a public figure acknowledges their guilt, takes responsibility for their actions and pays full restitution, it sends a powerful message that no one is above the law," Macomb County Prosecutor Peter J. Lucido said in a statement.



'ROGUE' EX-DETROIT COP RESIGNS FROM ANOTHER DEPARTMENT



In her primary election on Aug. 8, Owens didn't garner enough votes to advance to the November general election. The top two vote getters — former City Councilman Michael Klinefelt and Mary Hall-Rayford, a member of the Eastpointe School Board — are headed to the Nov. 7 general election. Klinefelt collected 57.2% of the vote, while Hall-Rayford received 16.8%.

Owens also made history in 2017 by becoming Eastpointe's first Black councilwoman.

Owens's time in office has been marked with controversy. She often clashed with other council members, and in November 2022, [four Eastpointe residents filed a federal lawsuit](#) against her for refusing to let them speak during a public comment period at a city council meeting. The lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Detroit alleges Owens violated the First and Fourteenth Amendment rights of four residents who tried to criticize Owens at a public meeting in September.

*Metro Times* couldn't reach Owens for comment.

[Subscribe to Metro Times newsletters.](#)

Follow us: [Google News](#) / [NewsBreak](#) / [Reddit](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)

Tags: [Michigan](#), [Greektown](#), [Detroit Police Department](#), [Eastpointe](#), [Eastpointe Police Department](#), [Johnny Hawkins](#), [wandering cops](#)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



### Steve Neavling



Steve Neavling is an award-winning investigative journalist who operated Motor City Muckraker, an online news site devoted to exposing abuses of power and holding public officials accountable. Neavling also hosted Muckraker Report on 910AM from September 2017 to July 2018. Before launching Motor City Muckraker,...

SUPPORT US

- [METRO DETROIT NEWS](#)
- [LOCAL BUSINESSES](#)
- [NEWS](#)
- [REAL ESTATE](#)
- [RESTAURANTS](#)
- [RETAIL](#)

# Developers plan to transform an old Pizza Hut in Detroit into East Warren Public Market

The project will include a local produce and fresh food market, mini retail spaces, and co-working offices

By [Layla McMurtrie](#) on Thu, Sep 28, 2023 at 11:33 am

[SEND A NEWS TIP](#)





Instagram, @threesquaredinc

Rendering of the new East Warren Public Market development.

In recent years, new developments have sprouted up in the East Warren area of Detroit's east side, largely thanks to the Strategic Neighborhood Fund that has been targeting different areas of the city.

On Sept. 19, *Urbanize Detroit* reported the area's newest development project – the East Warren Public Market – which will turn an old Pizza Hut into a space for local food businesses.

The project will feature a new 8,500-square-foot building with 12 mini retail spaces and a farmers market full of local produce and prepared food. The second story of the building will house offices for East Warren Development Corporation, resources for community businesses, and space for co-working.

The new facility is designed by [Three Squared Inc.](#), an architectural company known for its innovative, modern, eco-friendly concepts such as the Detroit Shipping Company, a food hall in Midtown made out of repurposed shipping containers. Three Squared Inc. [took to Instagram](#) on Sept. 26 to announce the project with mock-ups of how the outside and inside of the structure will look.

In recent weeks, new businesses including Morningside Cafe and [Next Chapter Books](#) have opened along East Warren, with more planned for the coming months. Earlier this year, ground broke on another big project named The Ribbon, which will bring affordable apartments and retail spaces to East English Village. The development is expected to be completed in 2024.

An opening date for the East Warren Public Market has not yet been announced.

[\*Subscribe to Metro Times newsletters.\*](#)

[Follow us: Google News | NewsBreak | Reddit | Instagram | Facebook | Twitter](#)

Tags: [Michigan](#), [Greektown](#), [Detroit Police Department](#), [Eastpointe](#), [Eastpointe Police Department](#), [Johnny Hawkins](#), [wandering cops](#)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



### Layla McMurtrie



Layla McMurtrie is the digital editor of Detroit *Metro Times*. She's passionate about food, music, art, and Detroit's culture and community. Her work has been featured in the Detroit Free Press, Between the Lines, Metromode, and other various Michigan publications.

METRO DETROIT NEWS

NEWS

# Preservationists win fight to save partially collapsed historic



# building in Eastern Market

After ordering an emergency demolition, the city of Detroit is now allowing the Del Bene Building to be repaired

By [Steve Neavling](#) on Thu, Sep 28, 2023 at 11:13 am

[SEND A NEWS TIP](#)



*Steve Neavling*

The Del Bene Building in the Eastern Market partially collapsed on Sept. 16.

The historic building that partially collapsed in the Eastern Market district earlier this month will soon be repaired after the city of Detroit backed off from its demands to demolish the 126-year-old structure.

The Buildings, Safety Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED) agreed Wednesday to allow the owner of the four-story Del Bene Building at 2501 Russell St. to begin restoring the structure.

On Sept. 16, the building's brick wall on the third and fourth floors crumbled to the ground, injuring one person and damaging several vehicles.

"We have reviewed and accepted the engineer's letter and are allowing the owner, engineers, and contractors, to proceed accordingly," BSEED director David Bell said in a statement. "DTE has been given the go-ahead to reenergize the building. We expect applications for permits and related documents to be submitted within 30 days and look forward to getting this building back online as soon as possible."

For several days after the collapse, the city was demanding the owner, Scott Turnbull, to demolish the structure, saying it was a safety risk. But preservationists and engineers urged the city to rethink its emergency demolition order, saying the reinforced concrete building likely could be salvaged.

Turnbull appealed the city's demolition order, and BSEED relented, allowing the owner to make a case for saving the building. After Turnbull's engineer examined the building and determined it could be safely restored, BSEED gave the owner the green light to make repairs.

It was a rare win for preservationists, who have long complained about Detroit's history of allowing salvageable historic buildings to be demolished. They include the Hotel Park Avenue, Tiger Stadium, Hudson's building, Saturday Night building



the Hotel Park Avenue, Tiger Stadium, Hudson's building, Saturday Night Building, Statler Hotel, Madison-Lenox Hotel, Deck Bar, and most recently, a [key Asian-American landmark](#) in the Cass Corridor.

### Related



**The partially collapsed historic building in Eastern Market may be saved after all**

[Mayor Duggan's administration said it will 'absolutely' consider plans to salvage the four-story structure](#)

[Subscribe to Metro Times newsletters.](#)

Follow us: [Google News](#) / [NewsBreak](#) / [Reddit](#) / [Instagram](#) / [Facebook](#) / [Twitter](#)

Tags: [Michigan](#), [Greektown](#), [Detroit Police Department](#), [Eastpointe](#), [Eastpointe Police Department](#), [Johnny Hawkins](#), [wandering cops](#)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR



### Steve Neavling



Steve Neavling is an award-winning investigative journalist who operated Motor City Muckraker, an online news site devoted to exposing abuses of power and holding public officials accountable. Neavling also hosted Muckraker Report on 910AM from September 2017 to July 2018. Before launching Motor City Muckraker,...

[METRO DETROIT NEWS](#)

[CAR CULTURE](#)

[LABOR](#)

[LAPOINTE'S](#)

[POLITICS & GOVERNMENT](#)

[VIEWS & OPINIONS](#)

SUPPORT US

# Lapointe: In Macomb County, Trump gets the blood boiling

But he pulls his punches on his prosecutors

By [Joe Lapointe](#) on Thu, Sep 28, 2023 at 9:03 am

[SEND A NEWS TIP](#)



Mark Bialek/ZUMA Press Wire

Supporters react as they listen to Donald Trump's speech live on the radio outside of Drake Enterprises, an automotive supplier in Clinton Township.

Donald Trump — the former and possibly future president of the United States —

is notoriously sloppy with words and reckless in his mob-boss allusions. So what are we to make of his blood-curdling, throwaway lines Wednesday night in a speech in Clinton Township?

After telling his audience what a successful businessman he was before his political career, Trump said: "I've risked it all to defend the working class from the corrupt political class that has spent decades sucking the life, wealth, and blood out of this country."

Amid a United Auto Workers strike growing in intensity, Trump said he was in town at a non-union parts manufacturing warehouse in Macomb County called Drake Enterprises to bring "a revival of economic nationalism and our automobile factories, a lifeblood which they are sucking out of the country."

Referring to former President Barack Obama and to current President Joe Biden and to their foreign economic treaties, Trump said "'Crooked Joe' backed every single, bloodsucking globalist attack on U.S. auto workers."

And, after the speech, Trump shifted his underlying motif for the night to a question about immigration in an interview with the right-wing television network Newsmax.

"It's killing our country," Trump said. "They're destroying the blood of our country."

Needless to say, the word "blood" — and especially the phrase "blood-sucking" — creates powerful images in the mind. Phrases that come to mind include "blood and soil" and "blood libel."

Would a respectable presidential candidate accidentally throw around a phrase like "blood-sucking globalist?" Look it up, kids, in the Google box and type alongside it the word "trope."

SUPPORT US

Trump's visit came one day after a short stop by Biden to a picket line in Belleville in western Wayne County. His trip also occurred on the same night of the Republican presidential debate in California, the second one Trump has avoided because he is leading by far in the polls.

Trump also avoided picket lines Wednesday. After telling UAW leaders to endorse him, he expressed surprise in his post-speech interview to learn that UAW President Shawn Fain — who met at length with Biden on Tuesday — did not care to talk to Trump on Wednesday.

"I didn't know that," Trump said. "If he didn't want to meet with me, then I don't like him very much. That's foolish not to meet. What is he going to do, meet with Biden? The man doesn't know he's alive."

## Related



**UAW president says Trump visit to non-union Michigan company is a 'pathetic irony'**

'I don't think the man has any bit of care about what our workers stand for, what the working class stands for,' UAW President Fain said of Trump

Trump's ridicule of Biden's age and health was a major theme of his speech, which lasted about one hour. He called Biden a "wretched old vulture." But, also important to the speech was what Trump left out.

Now that he has been indicted for multiple felonies in four venues and warned in several legal hearings, Trump appeared to be biting his forked tongue when it

came to his legal cases.

In a change of his usual style, he didn't attack by name any prosecutors or judges or witnesses, even by implication. Strange how he can measure his words when he wants to. One prison allusion was brief.

"I'm fighting for my freedom," he said, late in the speech, "against the forces of evil." Later, he joked off-the-cuff: "Now, I get indicted, like, every three days."



Joe Lapointe

Merchandise for sale on Gratiot Avenue, near where Donald Trump gave a speech in Clinton Township.

In a vague way, he alluded to how prosecution of a political candidate like himself "sets off a chain of events that could be dangerous in future years."

This seemed to imply he would "weaponize" his Justice Department against Democrats the way he insists that Democrats have done so to him.

He also went light with his usual whining allegations that the 2020 election was stolen from him, when he lost Michigan and the Electoral College to Biden.

But Trump did his best to divide and scare people with word-bombs like "horrible, ridiculous . . . radical left Marxists, fascists, crazy people . . . environmental lunatics . . . left wing crazies . . ."

He said the people who own auto companies are "either stupid or they're gutless" because they allow the federal government to push the transition from gasoline to electric power in cars. He repeatedly said that electric vehicles would eliminate jobs for American auto workers.





## FIRST HISTORICAL MARKER IN MICHIGAN HONORING MEXICAN COMMUNITY PLACED IN SOUTHWEST DETROIT



He kept going back to violent imagery.

“The auto industry is being assassinated,” Trump said. “It’s a hit job on Michigan and on Detroit.”

He threw scraps of red meat on non-auto issues by speaking against public schools and transgender people.

That made him for “school choice,” Trump said, and against “sexual mutilation of children.”

All this from the same large, loud, orange-faced, yellow-haired demagogue who fancied buying a gun this week but thought better of it because he is under felony indictment and that would be a crime.

On Wednesday, outside Drake Enterprises on Gratiot Avenue, Trump fans waved “Take America Back” flags and yellow Gadsden flags and flags that showed Trump’s face over an assault rifle.

Just before he took the stage, Trump sent out an email blast that was almost poetic in its dark rhythm.

SUPPORT

It said:

“Our country is dying  
Our people are suffering  
Our border is collapsing  
Our world is in chaos.”

Inside the auto parts place, they chanted their own menacing tempo.

“Trump! Trump! Trump!” they said. “Trump! Trump! Trump!”

### Related



**[Biden makes historic visit to metro Detroit picket line to rally with striking auto workers](#)**

It's thought to be the first time a sitting president has visited an active strike

**[Subscribe to Metro Times newsletters.](#)**

**[Follow us: Google News | NewsBreak | Reddit | Instagram | Facebook | Twitter](#)**

**Tags:** [Michigan](#), [Greektown](#), [Detroit Police Department](#), [Eastpointe](#), [Eastpointe Police Department](#), [Johnny Hawkins](#), [wandering cops](#)

---

**ABOUT THE AUTHOR**





### Joe Lapointe



Joe Lapointe is a Detroit-area freelance writer who is a former reporter for the New York Times and Detroit Free Press. He is working on a sports reporting memoir to be titled either The Fire-Balling Flame-Thrower Threw Bullets to Slam the Door or Local Team Hopes to Win Next Game...

## TRENDING



### How some Michigan Muslims united with extremist Republicans against LGBTQ+ rights

By Steve Neavling Sep 27, 2023



### Developers plan to transform an old Pizza Hut in Detroit into East Warren Public Market

By Layla McMurtrie Sep 28, 2023



### Detroit 'psychedelic church' Soul Tribes Ministries raided by police

By Randiah Camille Green Sep 25, 2023



### Lapointe: In Macomb County, Trump gets the blood boiling

By Joe Lapointe Sep 28, 2023

## ALSO IN NEWS & VIEWS



### As of noon, 25,000 UAW members will be striking against the Detroit Three automakers

By Anna Liz Nichols, Michigan Advance Sep 29, 2023



### Activists to rally at state Capitol to urge Gov. Whitmer to grant clemency to more inmates

By Steve Neavling | Sep 28, 2023



### UAW president says Trump visit to non-union Michigan company is a 'pathetic irony'

By Jon King, Michigan Advance | Sep 27, 2023



### Activist files lawsuit to force Trump off the ballot in Wayne County

By Steve Neavling | Sep 27, 2023



## DIGITAL ISSUE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2023



[VIEW MORE ISSUES >](#)

[SUPPORT US](#)

Big Lou Holdings, LLC  
Read our sister publications



### Metro Times

P.O. Box 20734  
Ferndale, MI 48220



Our website uses technical, analytical, marketing, and preference cookies to provide the best experience for our readers and to give us information about how our site is used. You may request that your data not be shared with third parties here: [Do Not Sell My Data](#).

© 2023 Detroit Metro Times

Powered by Foundation