## THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL 2024-2025 FINANCIAL AND BUDGETARY PRIORITIES, PUBLIC POLICY, PLANNING AND ACTION RESOLUTION

## **BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS:**

**WHEREAS,** The Honorable Mayor Mike Duggan presented his proposed Executive Budget for FY 2024-25 and a Four-year Financial Plan for the City of Detroit to the Honorable Detroit City Council on March 7, 2024, and in fulfillment of its Charter-mandated role and in keeping with past practice, City Council held hearings and deliberations on the proposed Executive Budget for FY 2024-2025 as submitted by the Mayor; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Detroit (City) continues on its positive trajectory since emerging from bankruptcy at the end of 2014. Reinvestment in the City's infrastructure has been ongoing, with fiscal restraint remaining paramount; and, the alignment of expenditures and revenues continues to be balanced with improvements in service delivery to residents; and

WHEREAS, The City has achieved nine consecutive years of balanced budgets by adhering to sound financial practices and financial resiliency which paved the way for continued economic and tax base growth which was acknowledged by the City's recent double credit rating increase from Moody's Investors Service that restores investment grade status not seen since 2009; and

**WHEREAS,** Michigan Public Act 181 of 2014 (Act 181) provided for State oversight of the City's finances for at least fourteen years. This budget process is proceeding under a waiver of active oversight, granted by the Financial Review Commission (FRC) in April 2018. The annually renewable waiver requires the City to submit its adopted budget and four-year financial plan to the FRC by April 30 of each year in order to maintain this status; and

**WHEREAS,** Pursuant to Sec. 8-213 of the 2012 City Charter and Public Act 182 of 2014, the City's Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Auditor General, and the City Council's Legislative Policy Division, along with other top officials held a revenue estimating conference which determined reasonable, agreed upon revenue projections of General Fund revenues for the upcoming fiscal year, totaling \$1.461 billion; and

**WHEREAS,** The FY 2025-2028 four-year financial plan, as presented to City Council, shows salaries and employee benefits citywide increasing from \$1.126 billion in FY 2024 to \$1.198 billion in FY 2025, an increase of \$72 Million, 6%. Beginning with fiscal year 2024, the City no longer makes discretionary pension contributions to the Retiree Protection Fund Trust Fund (RPTF) and has begun planned withdraws from the fund to pay its annual legacy pension cost. The FY 2025, \$169.9 Million legacy pension payment is based on a 30-year amortization period for both the General Retirement System and the Police & Fire Retirement System. For FY 2025, the city is implementing a new 30-year level principal amortization method, which requires an additional \$21.9 million in legacy pension payments which will be paid from the Retiree Protection Fund. The new amortization method accelerates payments in the short run but is

expected to improve the overall plan funded ratio and is projected to reduce annual costs over the long term. The Retiree Protection Trust Fund (RPTF) was projected to grow to \$465.4 Million to soften the pension blow in FY 2024; and

**WHEREAS,** In FY 2025, the pension payment could approach 13.5% of the general fund recurring budget under a 30-year amortization period. The amount of the City's annual pension payment fluctuates depending on how the stock market and the pension investments perform, the pension payback period (payment amortization period) and how much the City owes in pensions (unfunded actuarial liability). Conservative budgeting needs to be continued to reflect fiscal realities and avoid a reversion into bankruptcy and to diminish the City's ability to provide critical services. Pension costs will need extremely close monitoring; and

WHEREAS, On this day, April 8, 2024, the Detroit City Council adopts a program budget that is based on sound conservative budgetary principles for municipalities, well-reasoned financial assumptions, and past performance, as well as stated goals and projections for City departments, divisions, and agencies, as well as in consideration of the dictates of the "Plan for the Adjustment of Debts of the City of Detroit" (POA); and

**WHEREAS**, The City's General City retirees have demanded a review of their retirement benefit cuts after ten years under bankruptcy and much suffering. The Administration has placed in the Mayor's FY 2025 Budget a one-time \$10 million supplemental benefit for retirees of the General City Retirement System and the Policemen and Firemen Retirement System. The FY 2025 Budget also proposes \$10 million to make active employees retirement benefits more competitive with the retirement benefits offered by employers; and

WHEREAS, In recent years, BSEED has stepped up enforcement of the City's Rental Ordinance, requiring all rental properties to obtain a Certificate of Compliance and be up to code. It is the responsibility of the City to ensure that all rental properties are up to code in order to lawfully rent the unit, and that landlords have the resources to maintain safe, affordable housing. Landlord compliance fairs are an important resource for landlords or anyone considering owning rental properties in Detroit. Thus, the City Council requests BSEED hold at least two landlord compliance fairs per year in each City Council district; and

**WHEREAS,** Children with elevated lead levels continue to be a health concern in the City because of the high number of older homes that pre-date the elimination of lead in paint products. We urge BSEED, in cooperation with the HRD and the Health Department to use funds to develop a program to assist Mom-and-Pop landlords in an effort to help them comply with registration and certification requirements through lead-based paint encapsulation; and

WHEREAS, Over the last two decades Detroit Public Schools has reduced the number of active schools, leaving to date 33 vacant school buildings in various stages of disrepair. As former schools, the majority of these buildings sit squarely in the middle of residential areas making it critical that these buildings be secured and inspected regularly to maintain their security and to determine whether they are viable for adapative re-use through conversion into office space, senior housing, affordable housing, etc. City Council requests the Construction and Demolition

Department (CDD) prepare a study evaluating the condition and status of all vacant school structures; and

**WHEREAS**, Automated demolition practices have improved and are revolutionizing the demolition industry. City Council urges the CDD to research how these advanced robotics, and automated demolition methods might be utilized in the City's demolition activity to provide a safer and more cost-effective solution; and

WHEREAS, Detroit's property tax rates are among the highest in the state and the nation; as such, some of the state's poorest residents are paying the highest taxes. City Council is urging the Administration to develop strategies that would allow a 1 mil reduction to the operational property tax rate so that our Detroit residents can have more disposable income and to attract and retain both residential and commercial property owners in the city; and

**WHEREAS,** In acknowledgment of the additional safety precautions for our seniors in navigating the streets, City Council urges DPW to install additional traffic lights near senior living facilities; and

WHEREAS, The proximity of the Detroit International Bridge Company customs plaza and industrial property raises concerns for residents of Hubbard Richard regarding excessive speeding and truck traffic in the neighborhood. The City is committed to mitigating these traffic hazards and ensuring public safety. City Council urges DPW to collaborate with local residents to implement traffic calming measures on 16<sup>th</sup> Street (between Fort and Bagley) and 18<sup>th</sup> Street, or other local streets as necessary. These measures may include, but are not limited to, the installation of speed humps and curb bump-outs; and

**WHEREAS,** Many Detroit residents strive to maintain the beauty and cleanliness of our city; however, litter has become a growing issue that not only diminishes the aesthetic appeal of our city, but also poses a threat to our environment and public health; therefore, we urge the Administration to assess the issue of littering and to come up with a plan for better enforcement of our Code provisions; and

**WHEREAS**, When it comes to mass transit, similar to other cities across the country, Detroit has focused on workforce, equipment and service improvement in an effort to return ridership to prepandemic levels. Drawing from the experience gained from the Q-Line, City Council urges the Detroit Department of Transportation to allocate \$1 million to establish a 1-month free fare pilot program which should be evaluated according to metrics related to ridership, environmental impact, quality of life, and equity; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to improve the overall foot traffic, community and consumer engagement, walkability, and safety of the commercial Livernois/McNichols corridor, City Council has confirmed the Detroit Department of Transportation (DDOT) has identified funding and agreed to conduct a Feasibility Study for the use of smaller buses on W McNichols and Livernois Routes and provide a report within 30 days; and

**WHEREAS**, The City demonstrates its commitment to environmental justice by offering multiple options for public transportation including the DDOT bus system, Q-Line, and the People

Mover; and therefore, City Council urges the development of a transit app that integrates all city transportation options so that residents have the information to more effectively utilize the those options; and

**WHEREAS**, We urge the Administration to allow Council Members more decision-making power in the use of approximately \$20 Million in unallocated ARPA funds by dividing the funds equally between the nine Council Members, allowing the Council Members to direct the funding to appropriate projects, and implementing the direction of the Council Members; and

WHEREAS, Participatory Budgeting has been demonstrated to cultivate more robust civil societies, enhance the effectiveness and equity of public spending, and foster the growth of community leaders. City Council urges the Administration allocate \$1 million toward participatory budgeting projects and activities which should include a comprehensive educational component about the City's budget, and a way to monitor goals around outreach and inclusion; and

**WHEREAS,** Youth participation in government operations is vital to the health and future prosperity of a city. Municipalities around the country have begun to implement youth-specific programs and policies that give young residents a voice in the future of their city. Therefore, the Detroit City Council urges the Administration to create and implement a Youth Participatory Budget program; and

**WHEREAS,** Detroit residents who require or would like mental/ behavioral health assistance need to be able to access programs, hotlines, literature, locations and medicines in order to improve their quality of life. The City of Detroit should be able to provide resources that assist and mitigate some of the challenges residents are experiencing. Therefore, the Detroit City Council is urging the Administration to increase funding for behavioral/mental health training and outreach through the City's Health Department; and

WHEREAS, To address the pressing substance abuse issues and devastating long-term effects on Detroit youth and surrounding community; City Council is requesting the Detroit Health Department (DHD) to implement a comprehensive youth substance prevention program tailored to the needs of our specific population, providing information, skills development, strategies and services to ensure successful and healthier outcomes for our youth who might struggle with addiction. DHD currently receives 2% of the total City of Detroit state marijuana tax revenue allocation; however, the goal is to increase this amount to 10% based upon identified youth substance use prevention needs; and

**WHEREAS,** Because of the crucial role DHD plays in creating a healthier community by safeguarding the well-being of our residents, preventing diseases, and addressing health inequities, City Council urges the department to expand the health services offered to include monitoring the impact of industrial facilities on the residents' health by providing blood work, lung function evaluation, and heart monitoring amongst other vital health screenings; and

**WHEREAS,** In a city like Detroit, where access to healthcare services can be limited for many residents, partnerships between public health departments and community clinics are essential in ensuring that everyone has access to quality healthcare. One such partnership that could greatly

benefit the residents of Detroit is a collaboration between the Health Department and the HUDA Clinic, a community health center that provides free or low-cost medical services to uninsured and under- insured individuals. By working together, these two entities can provide a wide range of healthcare services to the community, ultimately improving the overall health and well-being of Detroit residents.

**WHEREAS,** The City has an on-going discount program for active employees for businesses in the city; Human Resources has agreed to extend the program offerings to City of Detroit retirees; and

**WHEREAS,** City Council desires for Council administrative staff to work with Human Resources to develop a standard process for onboarding new City Council staff members so that the employees get a comprehensive understanding of the City of Detroit's procedures, protocols, and operational functions; and

**WHEREAS,** Continuing education and professional development are vital components that increase City employee's productivity and the delivery of service to residents. Numerous studies have shown that there is a significant return on the City's investment when provisions are provided to increase educational opportunities for its employees. Therefore, City Council requests that the Administration reinstate the employee tuition reimbursement program to support our employees wishing to further their educations; and

WHEREAS, In an effort to minimize the outsourcing required by the Law Department, the Department should work toward adjusting its salaries to enable it to hire attorneys with specialized skills and experience that they regularly contract out. This would include but is not limited to attorneys who specialize in election law, property tax law, or any other area of law that is reasonably utilized frequently by the city. These specialists will likely come at a premium but will be more cost-effective than the contracted resources; and

WHEREAS, Supporting working parents with childcare has been shown to enhance overall workplace productivity, decrease employee turnover and lead to more motivated, happier employees with reduced absences, better worker retention and improved worker performance. Accordingly, City Council urges the Administration take the necessary steps for the City to participate in the MI Tri-Share program where the State, the City and the employer equally share the cost of childcare; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Detroit has been expressly named by the State of Michigan's Social Equity Program as a community "which has been disproportionately impacted by marijuana prohibition and enforcement". City Council urges the administration to utilizes \$1 million of the \$1.9 million funds the City received from the excise taxes collected from the sale and transfer of cannabis to create a dedicated, social equity grant program to support the cannabis businesses owned and operated by Detroit residents to provide business development and technical assistance; and

**WHEREAS,** City Council urges the Civil Rights, Inclusion & Opportunity Department to actively engage in and advocate for the disabled community within the Community Benefits

Ordinance (CBO) process, ensuring that the proceedings result in a meaningful and fair commitment to our disabled residents. This includes prioritizing accessible housing, transit, and services that cater specifically to the needs of this community, thereby fostering a more inclusive and equitable environment for all Detroiters; and

WHEREAS, City Council urges the Civil Rights, Inclusion & Opportunity Department to actively participate in the Empowered Cities Initiative, recognizing that becoming an Empowered City will not only ensure that Detroit meets the access needs of all its residents but also establish our city as a national leader among accessible municipalities. This involvement represents an exciting opportunity to shape the future of Detroit as an inclusive, welcoming city that attracts new residents and serves as a model for urban accessibility for all Detroiters, today and in the years to come; and

**WHEREAS**, The certification as a Detroit-based Business provides an advantage in the bidding process over non-certified businesses making it important to properly spell out the terms defining who qualifies as a DBB. City Council therefore is requesting that the DBB definition be tweaked to contain increased verification processes; and

**WHEREAS,** Additionally, City Council urges CRIO to complete a needs assessment of existing minority-owned contractors and businesses to understand capacity needs in an effort to help disadvantaged small businesses grow and become solid competitors for city-awarded contracts.

WHEREAS, The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the critical need for affordable broadband internet services for low income families. The Affordable Connectivity Program that allowed residents to obtain essential broadband services they need for work, school, healthcare and more at an affordable rate is set to expire this month. If the program expires, and no replacement program is implemented, many Detroiters will lose access to internet service. Therefore, the Detroit City Council urges Congress to appropriate the funds to continue operating the Affordable Connectivity Program; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit maintains recordings of every City Council standing committee, as required by Section 2-110 of the Detroit City Charter. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, City Council continued thorough governance by converting to virtual committee session via Zoom. The City Council urges the administration to increase server space to allow for residents to view virtual committee sessions from March 2020 through November 2021 in a special section of the City Council meeting video archive page; and

**WHEREAS,** The Right to Counsel and the Office of Eviction Defense has been funded by ARPA funding. City Council requests Administration seek other sources of funding for the programs; and

**WHEREAS**, Seniors are integral to our neighborhoods; however, we have heard concerns from seniors of a major disconnect between seniors and the resources offered by the Department of Neighborhoods. Council sees the need for increased engagement with senior buildings to help residents start tenant associations; therefore, Council urges the administration to increase efforts

to inform seniors on how to develop block clubs and tenant associations within their buildings; and

WHEREAS, Crime intervention programs in Detroit have shown remarkable results in reducing violence by addressing root causes and providing support to at-risk individuals. Data shows a notable decrease in instances of gang-related violence and drug-related crimes in targeted neighborhoods; therefore, City Council supports any actions needed to continue CVI programs and sustain the positive trajectory in community safety and well-being; and

**WHEREAS,** The mobile unit operated by the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation has been essential in making our city's employment services accessible to all Detroiters particularly those unemployed and underemployed, however, the needed repairs to this vehicle exceed its value. The DESC wishes to replace this vehicle with multiple customized sprinters deployed across the city, making their services even more accessible. Therefore, City Council urges the Administration to fund the four additional mobile units at \$100,000 each; and

WHEREAS, Grow Detroit's Young Talent (GDYT) provides young individuals with early employment opportunities and allows them to acquire and hone the skills necessary for their career progression. In an effort to identify the path that GDYT participants take for employment and their career, we're encouraging Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation to conduct an annual survey via text to identify employment and location status; and

WHEREAS, Land Value Tax (LVT), a taxation system based on the value of land, rather than the value of the buildings or improvements on the land, encourages efficient land use, discourages land speculation, and generates revenue for public services, a Land Value Tax has the potential to help revitalize Detroit and address some of the city's economic and urban planning challenges. If this legislation creating LVT passes in the State Legislature, City Council supports a ballot initiative so that the residents of the city can vote their preference for the Land Value Tax or Split-Rate Tax; and

WHEREAS, There has been an uptick in traffic activity in certain areas of the city creating a demand for more parking options. Although undesirable to drivers, traffic enforcement is a necessity and parking tickets are a major source of revenue to the City. However, Detroit residents need relief wherever the City can assist. The City offers a discount parking fee structure for Detroit residents paying their parking tickets quickly. Increased advertisement by way of commercials and other highly visible marketing tactics should used to make residents better aware of reduced fee; and

WHEREAS, Periodic Street sweeping prevents the buildup of dust, dirt and harmful contaminates that can enter the environment through the air and storm water runoff. The ability of the City to provide services is often hampered by illegally parked automobiles in residential neighborhoods during times when parking restrictions are in place, City Council request the Municipal Parking Department commence the enforcement of parking violations during street sweeping in neighborhoods following a year's long absence of the practice; and

**WHEREAS,** The close proximity of international bridges poses air quality hazards for local residents, while tree plantings are known to improve air quality and reduce particulate matter. City Council recognizes the benefits of tree planting in mitigating these hazards and urges the administration to dedicate tree plantings to the residential neighborhoods around the Gordie Howe and Ambassador Bridges; and

**WHEREAS,** The City's Disability Taskforce has invaluable perspective on the needs and perspectives of the disabled community. City Council urges the Municipal Parking Department (MPD) to meet with the taskforce to obtain the various concerns and recommendations to be incorporated into the department's parking policies and planning. ; and

**WHEREAS,** City Council also further urges MPD to discuss with DDOT the intersection between the allowed parking with the placement of bus stops and how it impacts the disabled community; and

WHEREAS, The development of new features into the ParkDetroit App and some additional infrastructure improvements will significantly enhance parking access for the disabled community. This initiative should include the addition of functionalities within the app to easily locate accessible street parking spaces, thereby addressing the mobility needs of disabled residents and ensuring that Detroit continues to move towards greater inclusivity and accessibility in every aspect of city life; and

WHEREAS, Additionally, City Council is seeking an increase in the number of designated accessible street parking spaces throughout the city, recognizing the urgent need of disabled residents, employees, and visitors for more accessible parking options near local agencies, businesses, and community centers is needed. This effort will not only affirm Detroit's commitment to inclusivity and accessibility but also enhance the urban experience for all who live in, work in, and visit our city, ensuring that everyone can participate fully in the vibrant life of our communities; and

**WHEREAS,** City Council calls upon the Municipal Parking Department to undertake a comprehensive study to analyze the potential revenue generation from the implementation and operation of electric vehicle charging stations and parking facilities throughout the city. This study should evaluate the economic, environmental, and societal benefits of such initiatives, aiming to position Detroit as a leader in sustainable urban mobility and to ensure that our city's infrastructure evolves to meet the future needs of our residents and the environment; and

**WHEREAS,** There is rich history and culture at the Motown Museum as the location was the catapult for legendary music artists, entertainers and producers, and new sounds, stamping Detroit's mark on the music industry forever. It is important to acknowledge and uplift this location, ensuring the historic landmark is properly preserved and amplified. Therefore, the City Council urges the Administration to allocate money for the expansion of the Motown Museum; and

WHEREAS, Cultural institutions play a vital role in preserving and promoting our shared heritage, yet many are facing financial challenges. To ensure the survival of these institutions,

urgent action is needed for these institutions to manage their cash flow, and capital improvements needs. Providing a 0% bridge loan will provide a cashflow management solution to organizations that are struggling to make capital improvements, cover operating expenses and maintain essential services; and

**WHEREAS**, Detroit's Greenhouse Gas Ordinance requires a greenhouse gas assessment every four years. The City is required to complete an assessment in 2024, City Council encourages the Office of Sustainability (OoS) to negotiate an agreement where SEMCOG funds the 2024 greenhouse gas assessment; and

**WHEREAS,** Currently OES employee's are placed throughout GSD's budget section, placing all FTEs under the Office of sustainability (OES) line items in the budget book will allow for better tracking and monitoring of sustainability efforts. By consolidating resources and personnel under one department, we can more effectively measure the impact and progress of sustainability initiatives. This will enable us to identify areas of improvement and allocate resources accordingly to maximize our sustainability efforts; and

**WHEREAS,** Municipal governments face increasing pressure to improve service delivery and performance while funding received from the state and other government agencies continues to decline. It is imperative that we consider alternative approaches to revenue generation, City Council urges the Administration to advocate for an amusement tax, through appropriate enabling state legislation, to increase municipal revenues and diversify the sources of municipal revenue; and

WHEREAS, Business and property owners along the Historic Avenue of Fashion and the Livernois/McNichols commercial corridor have been regularly confronted with challenges to the economic welfare of their businesses. As businesses attempt to recover from negative economic impacts related to construction along the corridor and the pandemic, over 50% of the commercial property owners continue to struggle owing property taxes subject to hefty interest payments. In order to give businesses the opportunity for economic growth that have been stalled due to circumstances beyond their control, City Council urges the Administration to use ARPA funds to pay overdue property taxes owed by property and business owners along Livernois Avenue between Eight Mile Road and the Lodge Freeway service drive and along McNichols between Livernois Avenue; and

**WHEREAS,** The concept of a 13<sup>th</sup> check for Detroit pensions has garnered attention as a potential solution to address the financial challenges faced by retired city workers. The idea of providing an additional payment, akin to a bonus, could offer much-needed relief to pensioners who have been impacted by economic downturns and budget constraints; and

**WHEREAS,** City Council strongly urges the administration to establish a Retiree Rainy Day Fund, with an annual contribution of \$1,000,000, mirroring the principles of the City of Detroit's existing Rainy Day Fund. This new fund would serve as a dedicated resource to ensure the ongoing protection of retiree benefits and pensions, especially as funding to the Retiree Protection Fund (RPF) will cease in FY25 and beyond. The creation of the Retiree Rainy Day Fund acknowledges the critical lessons learned during Detroit's bankruptcy and the importance of the RPF's role since 2017 in preparing for the return to actuarially-based funding of pension obligations. It represents a forward-thinking commitment to safeguard the financial stability and welfare of the city's retirees for decades to come, preventing future financial crises from jeopardizing their well-earned benefits; and

WHEREAS, The City is dedicated to demolishing blighted structures to preserve our environment and create safer and livable neighborhoods. Many of these dwellings are not beyond repair. But unfortunately, many of these blighted structures belong to our residents who are unable to bear the full repair costs. Additionally, repair efforts are too often undermined by vandalism, faulty infrastructure, and even natural disasters. To assist homeowners in the rehabilitation process with these necessary and required repairs, City Council urges the administration to allocate \$1 million for the creation of a Dangerous Building Fund; and

WHEREAS, Currently the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DBLA) operates the Nuisance Abatement Program which allows the DBLA legal team to file lawsuits against vacant and blighted properties, focusing on those that are boarded, open to trespass, and/or dangerous. It has been brought to the attention of the Council that there have been numerous occurrences in which property owners wishing to renovate homes have been required to defend their ownership rights when their property was labeled a nuisance and legal actions by the DBLA were initiated. City Council requests greater oversight of this program through our Building Safety Engineering and Environmental Department (BSEED) and Law Departments in order to guarantee the rights of our citizens are protected; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing the invaluable service and sacrifices made by our veterans and the significant challenges relative to joblessness and homelessness faced by many of those who have so bravely served our country, we must support their reintegration and prosperity within our community by providing more accessible pathways to homeownership and investment in Detroit's revitalization, therefore the Detroit City Council hereby urges the Detroit Land Bank Authority to develop and implement a program that prioritizes veterans for the acquisition of Land Bank properties, offering these properties at a 50 percent discounted rate; and

WHEREAS, The land bank is responsible for the sale of thousands of side lots within its inventory. In the effort to promote transparency and community engagement to a greater extent and allow residents living adjacent to or near neighborhood lots to participate in the "first right of refusal" prior to the lots being sold. City Council request the Detroit Land Bank Authority revamp it community/neighborhood lot endorsement process to include in-person notification to property owners who reside adjacent to side lots and community lots prior to requesting endorsements from the Detroit City Council; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit Land Bank Authority, Memorandum of Understanding states;

"The Detroit Land Bank will endeavor to assist in the sale or lease of land for City-sponsored land trusts or cooperatives, should the City adopt such a policy." City Council request the adoption of a Community Land Trust Policy operated similar to the Detroit Land Bank Authority (DBLA) Community Partners Program; and

**WHEREAS,** One study found that Black farmers lost \$326 billion in land-and wealth- between 1920 and 1997 alone. It is imperative that the City of Detroit continue to uplift the agricultural efforts of its marginalized residents that support the sustainability of local food systems and promote economic sustainability. City Council supports the Administration's allocation of \$250,000 in recurring funding in support of Black-owned and Detroit-based farmers; and

WHEREAS, The Charles H. Wright Museum welcomes thousands of visitors through its doors each year and its long-term financial sustainability depends on the generous support of the community through expanded membership and state and local government funding. QR codes have proven to be an easy, popular, and versatile way to store and share information, City Council urges the Charles H. Wright Museum to collaborate with City Council offices to increase membership rates using QR codes on City Council digital and printed community resources such as webpages, social media pages, and newsletters; and

WHEREAS, Media Services has experienced technical difficulties and malfunctions during significant events leading to disruptions in service and programming. City Council urges the department to carefully monitor the availability and use for its general fund allocation and utilize the dedicated PEG funds to purchase new equipment and hire additional staff to better provide these necessary services; and

**WHEREAS,** The Detroit Riverfront is an international attraction offering a plethora of activities for visitors and locals alike. A ferry service connecting parks and points of interest on the U.S. side of the river would add to the vibrancy of our waterfront, City Council requests the Administration working with the Port Authority to conduct a feasibility study concerning the establishment and implementation of a ferry service along the Detroit River; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Chief Financial Officer is strongly encouraged to conduct a sales study to identify the potential revenue that can be generated from a 2% local option tax for all business establishments within the central business district. Over the past 10 years, tax abatements and incentives have been utilized tremendously to support the growth of the central business district. As the city benefits from the jobs created in the form of income tax revenue, tourists that are attracted to the newly developed downtown don't currently contribute to the expense of maintaining public safety, improved roads, public infrastructure, etc. The additional revenue can contribute to maintaining public infrastructure, reducing property taxes, neighborhood development, etc.

WHEREAS, In recent years the Board of Police Commissioners, the elected body responsible for police oversight, has faced probes by multiple agencies, and has been long marred by a reputation of dysfunction and ineffectiveness. Despite the investigation of complaints being their primary duty there is a backlog of over 1300 cases because the board has failed to carry out their mandated obligations to the citizens of Detroit, City Council urges the Administration to eliminate all travel and conference funding for members of the Board of Police Commission due to the excessive backlog of citizen complaint investigations, and

WHEREAS, As part of the initial Fiat Chrysler Automotive Project, \$2.7 million has been redirected from the Terminal Street Improvement Project to the home repair fund. As the additional

funding for home repairs in the impact area is much needed, Council encourages a narrowing focus to be on structural improvements, including roofs, foundations, windows, porches, insulation, plumbing, heating, and electrical systems, and urges the Administration to continue processing the Home Repair grant applications obtained as part of the initial Fiat Chrysler Automotive Community Benefits Agreement; and

**WHEREAS,** A Community Land Trust (CLT) is a private, nonprofit organization that owns land on behalf of the community, promoting housing affordability and sustainable development. CLTs help eliminate racial wealth gaps by assisting traditionally underserved minority communities to build a degree of home equity and keep land available at low cost for low- and moderate-income families, the City Council supports the allocation of \$1.25 million to HRD for the establishment of a Community Land Trust Fund to provide access to homeownership for Detroit's low- and moderate-income population; and

**WHEREAS,** Many of our homeowners lack the resources to make necessary repairs in their homes. Existing household conditions like dangerous mold, flooding, and insects/rodents make homes potentially unsafe and prevent citizens from receiving various other services necessary to ensure their health and safety, City Council hereby request the Administration call upon the state of Michigan to make \$1 million in grants available specifically for the remediation of home hazards for qualifying homeowners; and

**WHEREAS,** Detroit and cities all over the country are facing challenges with affordable housing and 3D printing is revolutionizing the construction industry by making home building faster, cheaper, and more sustainable. The use of 3D printers for housing in the city of Detroit has the potential to address the shortage of affordable housing while promoting sustainability and innovation in the urban landscape, for these reasons, the Detroit City Council hereby allocates \$1,000,000 for the acquisition of an ICON Vulcan II printer; and

WHEREAS, Any new building or infrastructure improvement should be designed so that all persons regardless of age, disability to the greatest extent possible without the need for adaptation or specialized design. It is important for our urban landscape to be inclusive, promoting a city that welcomes and accommodates everyone, thereby fostering a more livable and equitable community for current and future generations, the Detroit City Council hereby encourages the Housing and Revitalization Department to allocate funding for a comprehensive study on Universal Design, as defined by the Center for Universal Design, to explore the integration of products and environments that are inherently accessible to all individuals, regardless of age, disability, or other factors, without necessitating adaptation or specialized modification; and

WHEREAS, Tax incentives are a powerful tool that can stimulate economic growth and development in our city. From property tax abatements to tax credits for hiring local workers, these incentives can make a significant impact on our city's economy. There is a need for greater transparency, accountability, and public awareness of the results, value, and process for approval of tax incentives and abatement. By educating residents about these incentives, we can empower them to take advantage of opportunities to improve and invest in their communities accordingly, City Council urges the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation to continue their community tax

incentives education series educating the public on tax abatements and all aspects of the development process in our city; and

WHEREAS, For decades tax incentives have been used as a policy tool to spur economic growth and job creation. In recent years, however, they come under increased scrutiny from the public regarding lost revenue and local fiscal health. An analysis should provide insight into the effectiveness of past incentives in stimulating sustainable development and offer recommendations for future policy to ensure that such projects contribute positively to Detroit's economic vitality and the well-being of its communities, the Detroit City Council urges the Housing and Revitalization Department along with the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) to conduct a detailed analysis of development projects with expired tax abatements or incentives, evaluating their long-term economic impact on the city and the immediate neighborhoods; and

WHEREAS, The District Business Liaison program offers vital services to our business community by focusing on our neighborhood business owner needs and connecting small businesses with support organizations. The Detroit Economic Growth Corporation's Detroit Business Liaison's (DBLs) are critical to the small-business ecosystem, and each have varying skills and experiences that contribute to the economic success of neighborhoods across Detroit. City Council urges the Administration to develop a program for the DBLs to share knowledge and experiences. The ability for our DBL's to learn from one another is not only an investment into them as individuals but also an investment in Detroit's economic future; and

**WHEREAS,** In 2019, the City began investing in the Grand River Streetscape Project's beautification and business health, specifically between the Southfield freeway and Berg Road. The City Council urges the administration to strategically create a business development assessment study to analyze how previous improvements have aided the business community along the corridor to determine how they should continue to invest in the corridor's future; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit Means Business program is the home for small business resources in our city. The program has successfully helped many small businesses by connecting them with vital resources, but currently the program does not accept contractors on a rolling application basis, the City Council urges the administration to maximize the number of prospective contractors that can perform capital improvements for Detroit Means Business award recipients by accepting contractors on a rolling basis without closing their opportunities to apply and be approved; and

WHEREAS, The Motor City Match Restore Track program currently offers opportunities for businesses throughout Detroit to benefit from façade and building improvements. The businesses along this corridor have the opportunity to take advantage of the resources of the Restore Track Program. The current contract between the City of Detroit and the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation (DEGC) allocates \$2M in ARPA funding to the program for FY23 and FY24. Of that amount, \$1.4M has been awarded and \$600,000 remains unawarded, therefore, City Council urges the HRD/DEGC to engage in outreach to business and property owners on the Historic Avenue of Fashion and ensure façade improvements to commercial properties; and

**WHEREAS,** The Detroit Police Department (DPD) and the Detroit Fire Department are vital to the safety and security of our residents. However, to effectively carry out their duties, they must have the necessary resources and infrastructure in place. It is crucial the City complete assessments for both entities to determine the capital infrastructure needs, funding and implementation strategies needed for both the fire engine houses and police. City Council request the Administration conduct a complete assessment of these facilities and issue a comprehensive report detailing required repairs and renovations accompanied by anticipated funding sources; and

WHEREAS, The hazards associated with high-speed police pursuits have been well documented with 1 out of every 100 high speed pursuits resulting in a fatality. High speed chase can be dangerous for police officers, innocent bystanders, and suspects. Star Chase technology offers a less-than-lethal vehicle tagging system that tags, tracks and locates fleeing vehicle through handheld and vehicle mounted GPS launchers providing a safe alternative for law enforcement to reduce the dangers associated with high-speed police chases, City Council urges DPD to study the applicability of this technology, and if appropriate, fund High-Speed Pursuit StarChase Technology or other similar GPS-based technology to reduce the need for dangerous high-speed pursuits; and

**WHEREAS,** The Citizens Radio Patrol Program has been one of the best and most successful safety programs instituted in our city. Originally established in 1967, through the dedication and commitment of many volunteers, they have served as the "eyes and ears" of the community for decades. City Council recognizes the importance of Citizens Radio Patrols and the vital services they perform in our community in reducing crime and encourage the expansion of the program throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, Senior citizen facilities are in located in every community throughout the entire city and increased police presence would not only benefit those seniors living in the buildings, but the community at large. Increased police presence has been found to have a crime reduction effect on crimes related to motor vehicle theft, property, violence, and guns. Therefore, the City Council requests the Administration and DPD establish police mini stations in senior buildings throughout the city; and

WHEREAS, The increasing number of motor vehicle accidents involving police scout cars highlighting the need for a meaningful safety training program to reduce the number and severity of these occurrences. City Council urges the Police Department to reallocate funding to establish a safety training program to help reduce or eliminate the instances and cost associated with these motor vehicle collisions. If DPD fails to take appropriate actions to address this problem, City Council will explore steps to institute such a program and reallocate funds in the amount of \$2.7 million from individual precincts to fund such a program; and

WHEREAS, Council regularly receives feedback from residents expressing concerns about safety due to insufficient public lighting in neighborhoods. This lighting is necessary to preserve the health and safety of the People of Detroit. Council has been informed by the OCFO that there is enough budget surplus to conduct a lighting study, which has an estimated cost of \$250,000. Therefore, City Council urges the Public Lighting Authority to conduct a large scale light study

in FY2025 to assess the need to amend the public lighting plan to meet necessary lighting standards for neighborhood alleys and commercial corridors; and

WHEREAS, Council regularly receives feedback from residents expressing concerns about the safety challenges posed by poorly lit and neglected mid-block areas, impacting the well-being and unity of their neighborhoods. The obvious benefits of increased mid-block lighting, such as improved visibility and deterrence of criminal activity, cannot be denied. Therefore, Council advocates for increased mid-block lighting in every Detroit neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, the City of Detroit should continue to implement technology and infrastructure advancements for the efficient management of utilities. As the administration is preparing to transition city buildings to solar power technology, City Council urges for the implementation of solar technology in residential areas that have solar poles, as well as continued research on how to implement solar technology citywide; and

**WHEREAS,** The Public Lighting Authority (PLA) Best Value procurement process considers a combination of factors such as, local headquarters, Detroit hiring commitment, workforce residency, and capacity building commitments when evaluating bid responses to ensure greatest overall benefits to PLA and the citizens of Detroit. City Council request that other city departments develop a similar process to ensure all of the city's procurement decisions are well informed and benefits both the city and our residents; and

**WHEREAS,** The population of the United States is rapidly aging. By 2023, 1 of every 5 people in the U.S. will be 65 or older. As our population ages, creating age friendly communities has become increasingly important to ensure the well-being and quality of life of our senior citizens. People of all ages benefit from walkable neighborhoods, good transportation options, affordable housing, and access to key services, City Council request that HRD, Planning and Development, City Planning Commission and DEGC all recognize the need and benefit of creating age friendly communities and the associated programming when planning for future development; and

**WHEREAS,** Detroit's population of seniors remains one of the most vulnerable segments of our community. Many times, property owners who are seniors are unable to keep up with maintenance of properties and lack the necessary resources to make repairs in an expeditious manner or pay costly blight tickets. Therefore, City Council urges the Administration to fund a program designed to relieve the burdens of blight tickets on senior residents of the city, and

WHEREAS, The concept of "20-30-minute neighborhoods", has gained popularity as a model for sustainable and livable cities, emphasizing the creation of neighborhoods where resident can access essential service, amenities, and recreational facilities all within a 20-to-30-minute walk or bike ride from their homes. The implementation of this model in Detroit would represent a strategic approach to urban planning and improve accessibility, promote sustainable mobility, and enhance the overall well being of residents, City Council hereby requests the Administration to conduct a study to assess the feasibility of the development of "20-30-minute neighborhoods" within the city of Detroit; and

## WHEREAS,

WHEREAS, In Spring 2023, the City of Detroit Planning and Development Department began hosting community meetings to share information about the proposed Denby/Whittier Framework Plan but failed to receive funding to complete the work in the FY 23-24 budget. The proposed neighborhood framework planning study would focus on the area bounded by Harper Woods, Kelly Road, Hayes, and Interstate-94. The Framework Plan will continue with the study with funding from FY25's capital funding to identify common goals for the future of the neighborhood; and

**WHEREAS,** Typically, the City pays <sup>1</sup>/<sub>4</sub> cost of certain capital upgrades at the Detroit Port Terminal. The Port Authority is requesting support for the construction of a new general cargo dock with a \$2.6 million contribution from the City. However, before any agreement is executed the City needs more evidence that the other contributors are onboard with this development; and

**WHEREAS**, residents in the Hubbard Richard neighborhood lack a safe means of crossing Fort Street to reach newly established riverfront parks, and the proximity of nearby industrial uses poses hazards for local residents. City Council recognizes the importance of addressing these safety concerns and urges PDD to work with local residents in conducting a planning study or a series of charrettes to develop a vision for how residents can safely access the riverfront amidst the surrounding industrial properties; and

**WHEREAS**, The historic Greyhound bus depot is currently undergoing demolition and there is significant community interest to redevelop the site, bringing it back to productive use. City Council recognizes the importance of supporting this effort and urges HRD to allocate funds for a Phase II environmental assessment for the site, facilitating its eventual redevelopment; and

**WHEREAS,** The half-ton Liberty/Spanish Bell currently located in Palmer Park is over 220 years old and was gifted to Senator Thomas W. Palmer and subsequently gifted by Senator Palmer along with the land that is now Palmer Park and his former summer home, the log cabin. It stands as a significant part of Detroit history; City Council urges the department to historically designate the Liberty/Spanish Bell to preserve the City's historic asset and to install signage that communicates the history and significance of the bell to the public; and

**WHEREAS,** The relocation of the Bandshell from the State Fairgrounds to Palmer Park is currently underway. For the safety of residents and the development of the project, City Council urges the department develop visitor parking plans for the Bandshell and the installation of solar-powered lighting surrounding the construction site; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit is among the oldest cities in America and home to bountiful historical structures and landmarks that many residents and visitors alike overlook daily. Amid Detroit regaining its feet, economically speaking, and the recent surge in new development, it is important that we continue to find ways to acknowledge the City's cultural roots. City Council urges GSD to coordinate with appropriate departments to create an app that showcases and provides information about the various artworks, cultural and historic landmarks found throughout Detroit; and

**WHEREAS,** According to the CDC, drowning is the leading cause of death in children ages 1-4 and it's the second leading cause of unintentional injury death for children ages 5-14. To promote recreational activities and enhance the physical and mental health and safety of Detroit residents, City Council requests that the General Services Department (GSD) work collaboratively with Detroit Public Schools Community District (DPSCD) and private partners to provide swimming lessons and water safety programs, to provide access to pools across the community, to identify viable locations to expand access to existing pools, and to promote and sustain access to the pools; and

**WHEREAS,** Historic Fort Wayne is an iconic landmark which holds immense potential as an educational site and tourist attraction, as well as a community hub to hold various events for community, organizations and families. Built in the 1800's, the facility is in dire need of investment in capital infrastructure improvements in order to create a welcoming environment for generations to come. City Council hereby allocates \$100,000 to assess the condition and renovation cost to revitalize historic Fort Wayne; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Detroit has begun the multi-million-dollar restoration of the Dodge Fountain at Hart Plaza, however the entire plaza is in need of repair and renovation. Hart Plaza is a destination that has hosted visitors from all over the world and a focal point of our Downtown. City Council urges the Administration to allocate the required funding to bring Hart Plaza back to its original glory; and

**WHEREAS,** Sen. Phil Hart and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. were men of great character who not only worked to change the lives of African Americans in Detroit, but changed lives across the country. They represent the kind of unity that this country needs today. City Council supports the designation of Hart Plaza city's first Unity Site. These sites around the city will be places where Black and White came together to make life better for everyone; and

WHEREAS, Phase I of the Brennan Recreation Facility is projected to kick-off construction in summer/fall of 2024 and GSD has identified the need to complete Phase II enclosing the existing outdoor Olympic sized pool. However, no funding has been allocated for this program. This initiative not only aims to extend the usability of the pool throughout the year, but also seeks to enhance the recreational opportunities available to our community, promoting health, wellness, and the social well-being of all Detroit residents. The Detroit City Council hereby calls upon the General Services Department to actively seek and secure funding for the purpose of covering the swimming pool at the Brennan Recreation Facility; and

WHEREAS; Unstructured play has myriad positive impacts on the long-term mental, physical, social, and emotional development, and competencies of youth. An estimated six million children with mental and physical disabilities have less access to inclusive play spaces that specifically address barriers to independent, unstructured play amongst their peers. Boundless playgrounds that create inclusive environments where children with and without disabilities can play and learn together, have been instituted in many states and Canada, City Council requests a feasibility study be done to explore the possibility of constructing at least one "Universally Accessible" playground

in each of the seven council districts or updating current playground structures to be accessible; and

WHEREAS, The city of Detroit has a significant number of vacant lots throughout the city that can be turned into pocket parks, which can help to address issues of blight, improve neighborhood aesthetics, and create safe and welcoming spaces. These small public green spaces can enhance the visual appeal of neighborhoods, attract new resident and businesses, and contribute to the overall revitalization of the city. City Council requests GSD to work to develop more pocket parks and public green spaces in our neighborhoods to offer a place for citizens to gather, relax, and interact with their neighbors, fostering a greater sense of community and pride of ownership; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Review (BoR) is a nine (9) members body which represents a crosssection of the community and has significant contact with our residents, connecting our lowincome homeowners with various services and programs. The Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC), the lead agency for "Detroit at Work", provides job placement, training, career advisement and services to thousands of Detroiters. City Council request the BoR and DESC work together to find ways to better address the specific needs of residents. This partnership has the potential to make a significant impact on the lives of those who are most vulnerable and ensure that everyone can succeed; and

**WHEREAS,** According to Chief Judge McConico of the 36th District Court, domestic violence cases have approached epidemic levels with offenders getting younger impacting both young ladies and young men, Council urges the administration to consult and work with the 36th District Court to secure funding and develop a program to curb domestic violence; and

WHEREAS, Debt collection cases are dominating Michigan's district courts, where creditors are almost always represented in debt collection cases, and consumers are rarely represented. While the filing rate against people living in majority Black communities is two to three times higher than case filings against people living in non-Hispanic White communities, it is necessary to develop pilot projects and find alternative solutions to help creditors, consumers, and courts. The City Council urges the Administration and the 36th District Court to develop a program, similar to the current Right to Counsel program, that will provide legal representation to defendants in collection matters before the 36th District Court"; and

**WHEREAS**, The 36<sup>th</sup> District Court, as the busiest and largest district court in Michigan with over 450,000 filings annually, is in need of additional investment to ensure the building is maintained in a safe and accessible manner; therefore, City Council strongly urges the administration to develop a capital improvement plan which includes total cost, and the source of funding to address the ongoing capital needs of this facility; and

**WHEREAS,** Election education is critical to informing the electorate, City Council urges the administration to strategize and fund an off-year election campaign to ensure that Detroit residents remain engaged and informed on upcoming election information and changes; and

**WHEREAS** The City Clerk indicated the process for obtaining grant dollars through the Office of Contracting and Procurement (OCP) was arduous, especially when special elections are called,

the departments must to be able to quickly access grant funding provided from external entities, the City Council requests that the OCP develop a strategy a way to streamline the process and eliminates barriers to the Clerk's office receiving funds for Elections; and

WHEREAS, the City Council supports additional funding for the establishment of additional community Tech and Literacy Hubs citywide. These facilities and the programs they offer provide equitable access to high-speed internet and digital literacy, as well as programs that teach and inspire students about digital skills. Youth can learn skills such as programming, cyber security, and augmented virtual reality. Community Tech and Literacy Hubs change the future arc of underserved communities by providing access to the latest technology tools preparing our citizens for 21<sup>st</sup> century opportunities; and

**WHEREAS,** Recognizing the estimated cost to restore the Montieth Library branch to full ADA compliance is \$6.4 million and the tremendous void in the community caused by the absence of cultural institutions, accessible training, and education opportunities for residents of all ages. City Council requests the Construction and Demolition Department provide rehabilitation support for the Montieth branch by working with the Detroit Public Library Association to conduct repair work of \$2 million in FY 2025 to assist in the reopening of the branch, and

WHEREAS, The public library system is a phenomenal asset that exists truly to serve the community at-large so when a library branch closes it creates a void in the community. The Skillman Branch has served the city since 1895, prior to most recently being shuttered due to the ongoing construction at the Hudson site which after over 6 years is finally near completion, City Council requests sufficient capital be devoted for the Detroit Public Library to reopen the Skillman Branch Library and provide the Downtown Development Authority with the required documentation for their financial support to enable this branch to continue to benefit our residents. and

**WHEREAS** City Council urges the administration to allocate future surplus dollars towards funding a third full-time employee (FTE) for the Office of the Auditor General, recognizing the essential role this office plays in ensuring the integrity, accountability, and efficiency of city operations. This strategic investment is vital for enhancing the office's capacity to conduct thorough audits, provide oversight, and deliver recommendations that safeguard public resources, thereby reinforcing our commitment to transparency and good governance for the people of Detroit; and

**WHEREAS,** Reverse convictions have cost the City of Detroit millions in settlements, and wrongfully convicted individuals often use a portion of the settlement money to repay the State of Michigan for legal fees, City Council urges the administration to create a system where the City is responsible for the fees paid to the State of Michigan;

**WHEREAS,** City Council in its duty to be responsible stewards of the City's budget has been conservative in allocating funding, as such the Body does not completely fund all its priorities, so in light of the historic surpluses the City has been experiencing City Council strongly urges

the Administration to apply future increases in revenues and General Fund surpluses to City Council's unfunded priorities articulated in this Closing Resolution. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT** 

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council with its final deliberations have made a total of \$37,338,323 in amendments to the Mayor's Proposed Executive Budget. Of those allocations, \$33,965,000 have come from One-time General Funds sources and \$3,373,323 have come from Reoccurring General Fund sources as indicated in Schedule B; **BE IT FURTHER** 

**RESOLVED,** Detroit City Council is allocating \$500,000 for the expansion of the Goal Line after school program which provides much needeu-vd education and recreation during the critical latch-key hours; **BE IT FURTHER** 

**WHEREAS,** The State of Michigan provides U-Visas to individuals who are victims to certain crimes who help law enforcement in their investigation. U-Visas are valid for four years. The Detroit Police Department commits to working with City Council in streamlining a process that ensures individuals who are eligible for a U-Visa have access to information on obtaining a visa and that the Department works with the applicant to get the visa approved in a timely manner; and

**RESOLVED,** The Detroit Zoo is home to many award-winning exhibits and the largest family attraction in Michigan hosting more that \$1.3 million visitors annually, City Council has allocated funding of 1.2 million for security and insurance. In addition, Council wishes to allocate an amount of not less than \$500,000 recurring in the upcoming four-year budgets; **BE IT FURTHER** 

**RESOLVED,** The Charles H. Wright Museum of African-American History is being allocated \$3.4 million for capital improvements. The Administration has promised another \$3.3 million allocation for further improvement; **BE IT FURTHER** 

**RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council has appropriated \$521,000 for the creation and staffing of the Tenants' Rights Commission to provide a impartial arbitrator for landlord-tenant relations; **BE IT FINALLY** 

**RESOLVED,** That the City Clerk is directed to provide a copy of resolution to the Financial Review Commission, Mayor Michael Duggan, The Chief Financial Officer, the Finance Director, the Budget Director, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans and all agencies, departments and divisions of the City of Detroit.