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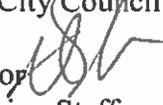
# City of Detroit

## CITY COUNCIL

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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: May 20, 2016

RE: **Property Tax Exemptions for Police and Fire Employees**

In response to a request from Council Member Ayers, the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) prepared the attached resolution urging the Michigan Legislature to enact a real property tax exemption for public safety personnel who maintain their principal residences in the City of Detroit.

Attachment

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER AYERS**

**RESOLUTION URGING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO ENACT A  
REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION FOR PUBLIC SAFETY PERSONNEL  
WHO MAINTAIN THEIR PRINCIPAL RESIDENCE IN THE CITY**

- WHEREAS** In 1999, the Michigan Legislature enacted Act 212 of 1999, “An Act to restrict certain governmental entities from requiring individuals to reside within certain geographic areas or specified distances or travel times from their place of employment as a condition of employment or promotion”; and
- WHEREAS** The aftermath of the passage of Act 212 has been an accelerated and predictable loss of residents, tax revenue, active businesses, occupied housing stock, school age children, and a myriad of other negative consequences; and
- WHEREAS** Attracting and retaining well-qualified police and fire personnel to the City to work and live and be active members of the community is an essential goal in any plan to revitalize the City; and
- WHEREAS** The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit’s citizens through its Charter-mandated legislative functions; and
- WHEREAS** The Michigan Home Rule City Act, MCL 117.1 *et seq*, recognizes the lawful and proper powers of local City government to make local laws, adapt to local conditions, and provide accountable governance of local communities; and
- WHEREAS** A state legislative enactment giving local units of government the opportunity and authority to offer, through collective bargaining, real property tax exemptions to public safety personnel who live in the City would have the likely effect of significantly increase the numbers of candidates for available public safety jobs, as well as aid in retaining current employees; and
- WHEREAS** Allowing individual units of government discretion through collective bargaining over the availability of the exemption benefit would permit local governments (better able to assess their own specific needs) to offer the enticement of property tax exemptions to their employees; and
- WHEREAS** Given the importance of public safety services and their essential nature in community life, a rational argument can be made for providing this significant benefit. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Council urges the Detroit delegation to the Michigan Legislature to craft and introduce legislation allowing the City of Detroit and/or local units of government the authority and opportunity to attract and retain public safety personnel through the ability to offer, by means of collective bargaining, property tax exemptions to personnel whose principal residence is in the City of Detroit; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED** That copies of this resolution shall be transmitted to the Mayor and Corporation Counsel, the City's State lobbyists, the Governor and the Detroit delegation in the State Legislature.