

**RESOLUTION OPPOSING PASSAGE OF SENATE BILL 690, WHICH WOULD
CREATE AN INDEPENDENT AIRPORT AUTHORITY**

introduced by Council President Ken Cockrel, Jr.

WHEREAS, without consulting with the Wayne County Commission, Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara on Wednesday, February 20 announced that he and Governor John Engler had agreed to the formation of a independent airport authority charged with governance and management of Detroit Metropolitan and Willow Run airports; and

WHEREAS, this authority would strip all oversight over airport operations from the 15 elected Wayne County Commissioners including its roles in contract approval and audits deferring these roles to the authority and a sub-committee it would designate; and

WHEREAS, previous Wayne County Commission-initiated audits of aspects of Detroit Metropolitan Airport have uncovered various problems in contracting and airport operations highlighting the need for continued oversight by the Wayne County Commission; and,

WHEREAS, the majority membership of the proposed authority by be appointed by the current Wayne County Executive Ed McNamara for reported eight-year terms even though Mr. McNamara plans to retire at the end of this year; and

WHEREAS, formation of such of such an authority and its undermining of the legislative body's role in governing the airport is reminiscent of the previous Mayoral administration's failed attempt to strip the Detroit City Council of authority over the Housing Commission and the State's takeover of the Detroit Public Schools; and

WHEREAS, creation of such an authority could possibly jeopardize Detroit's control over City Airport in the future; and

WHEREAS, the enabling legislation to create this authority(Senate Bill 690) has already passed the Michigan State Senate and is being fast-tracked for approval in the State House of Representatives despite the fact that there has been little substantive public decision and debate over the merits of the legislation; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED that the Detroit City Council joins with the cities of Romulus or Allen Park in opposing passage of Senate Bill 690 or any other substitute bill and calls upon all members of the State Legislature to give this proposal a detailed public discussion and analysis.