

walk-on

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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: July 21, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INVESTMENT IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE
PREVENTION FOR YOUTH**

Council Member Scott Benson requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution supporting investment in substance abuse prevention for youth.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER SCOTT BENSON

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING INVESTMENT IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE PREVENTION FOR YOUTH

- WHEREAS,** According to the Detroit City Charter, the City shall provide for the public peace, health, and safety of persons within its jurisdiction, which includes a commitment to the development and welfare of our youth; and
- WHEREAS,** Along with a growing number of states and municipalities, Detroit allows licensed facilities to legally sell marijuana to adults above the age of 21 for medicinal and recreational purposes; and
- WHEREAS,** While marijuana purchasers must be over the age of 21 to purchase from licensed facilities, the City should implement strong and effective safeguards to prevent substance abuse by our youth; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (“CDC”), marijuana use before the age of 18 may negatively and permanently impact brain development in terms of attention, memory, and learning¹; and
- WHEREAS,** Marijuana use may impact educational achievement for youth, and the Detroit Regional Chamber’s 2022 State of Education Report shows that there are already significant challenges to educational achievement in Detroit, with only 53% of graduates enrolling in post-secondary education and only 34% of those students graduating with a degree or certificate²; and
- WHEREAS,** Educational achievement is strongly correlated with better financial outcomes, as the Detroit Regional Chamber’s report also found that about 86% of occupations that require a postsecondary credential offer a family-sustaining wage (just over \$60,000 for a family of four), while nearly 83% of occupations earning less than \$39,810 require only a high school diploma or have no requirement; and
- WHEREAS,** The City has a duty to protect its youth population by investing in programming focused on substance abuse prevention, education, treatment and research initiatives to ensure that our youth are well informed about potential risks of substance abuse and have access to necessary support services; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council urges the Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (“DWIHN”) to allocate significant funding to programs designed to provide substance abuse prevention, education, treatment, and research for the City’s youth; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** That the allocation of DWIHN funds towards these critical initiatives reflects our steadfast commitment to the health and wellbeing of our city’s young people; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/marijuana/health-effects/brain-health.html#:~:text=Using%20marijuana%20before%20age%2018,attention%2C%20memory%2C%20and%20learning.&text=Marijuana's%20effects%20on%20attention%2C%20memory,to%20fully%20understand%20these%20effects.>

² https://e.issuu.com/embed.html?d=2022_state_of_education&u=detroitregionalchamber

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the DWIHN Board of Directors and to Mayor Mike Duggan.