



City of Detroit Detroit City Council

FROM THE DESK OF
Mary Waters, Member At-Large
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1340 Detroit, MI 48226

RESOLUTION CALLING FOR RENAMING OF HART PLAZA TO HART/KING PLAZA

WHEREAS, Hart Plaza has long been a community gathering place for Detroiters and people throughout the region and world, occupying a place in the heart of our city and on our beautiful riverfront; and

WHEREAS, Hart Plaza was named after the great Senator from Michigan Phil Hart, affectionately known as the ‘Conscience of the Senate’, who had a decades-long career faithfully representing and serving the citizens of Michigan with aplomb; and

WHEREAS, one of the most momentous occasions in the history of the plaza was hosting Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr after the 1963 Freedom Walk, where he first delivered his famous “I Have A Dream” speech; and

WHEREAS, Senator Hart was instrumental in working with Dr. King and civil rights activists across the country to pass civil rights and voting rights legislation, as well as exposing corruption within the government that led to the assassination of several prominent black leaders, including Fred Hampton and Mark Clark; and

WHEREAS, the values espoused by Dr. King, and supported by Hart, are those of the City of Detroit – dedication to the advancement of all, welcoming to all, and working towards a future free from crime, violence, and poverty; and

WHEREAS, in the 60th anniversary of Dr. King’s pivotal speech, coinciding with the recent unveiling of a statute in the famous civil rights leader’s likeness, we have the opportunity to make a strong statement of our city’s values; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Detroit City Council calls for the official renaming of Hart Plaza as Hart/King Plaza; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the plaza be declared a violence-free zone, in alignment with the values of our city that Dr. King so eloquently articulated 60 years ago; and be it

FINALLY RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Mayor and all interested public media, civil society, educational and civil groups and individuals.