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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: September 18, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UAW PRESIDENT SHAWN FAIN AND
STRIKING UAW WORKERS**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a
**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UAW PRESIDENT SHAWN FAIN AND STRIKING UAW
WORKERS**

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

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF UAW PRESIDENT SHAWN FAIN AND STRIKING
UAW WORKERS**

- WHEREAS,** On September 15, 2023, the United Auto Workers (UAW) and UAW President Shawn Fain initiated an unprecedented strike against General Motors, Ford Motor, and Stellantis after negotiations between the UAW and the auto makers were not resolved prior to the expiration of the union contracts; and
- WHEREAS,** Currently, UAW workers are striking at three assembly plants by targeting one facility for each automaker, however the UAW is expected to expand the strike if negotiations do not produce contracts that are agreeable to their demands; and
- WHEREAS,** The UAW's primary demands are for wage increases, cost of living increases, shorter work weeks, a restoration of defined benefit pensions, and stronger job security as automakers increasingly shift production to electric vehicles; and
- WHEREAS,** UAW President Shawn Fain has stated that the union is attempting to address the increasingly unequal wage gap between auto workers and executives, as executive pay has increased 40% during the life of the previous contract while worker pay has only increased by 6%; and
- WHEREAS,** The UAW is demanding a fairer share of the profits that auto workers generate, as the three automakers combined have made over \$20 billion in profits in the first six months of 2023 and roughly a quarter of a trillion in profits over the last decade; and
- WHEREAS,** The UAW was founded in Detroit, Michigan in 1935, largely in response to brutal working conditions in auto factories; and
- WHEREAS,** Perhaps the most famous and significant event in UAW history was the sit-down strike at the GM Fisher Body Plant in Flint, Michigan, which paved the way for union recognition at GM and shortly thereafter at Ford and Chrysler; and
- WHEREAS,** The rise of the UAW and other unions in the 1930s and 1940s resulted in the first great expansion of health care for Americans, and throughout the 20th century, unions are credited with gaining vast improvements in the lives of working people, which include the weekend, the 40 hour work week, the end of child labor, the 8 hour work day, unemployment benefits, workers compensation benefits, and the Family and Medical Leave Act (FMLA); and
- WHEREAS,** The UAW is calling its new strategy a "stand-up strike" in recognition that striking workers are continuing a long legacy of fighting for improved compensation and working conditions for its members and for all workers; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council supports and stands in solidarity with striking UAW members and UAW President Shawn Fain as they continue to seek a resolution to the strike that results in improved compensation and working conditions for its members working for GM, Ford, and Stellantis; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk's Office provide a copy of this resolution to UAW President Shawn Fain.

