



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 ON CONGRESS AND THE PRESIDENT TO MOVE SIGNIFICANT FUNDS AWAY FROM MILITARY BUDGET TO FUND SOCIAL SERVICES AND WELFARE

WHEREAS, In 2023 the President Biden administration submitted a Department of Defense budget request of \$842 billion for Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 which Congress increased to \$886 billion – more than China, Russia, India, Saudi Arabia, United Kingdom, Germany, France, South Korea, Japan, and Ukraine combined; and

WHEREAS, the Pentagon budget nears \$1 trillion, the Department of Defense announced it has failed its 6th audit and can't account for half of their assets; and

WHEREAS, according to the National Priorities Project, cutting \$100 billion from the Pentagon budget could pay for: the clean energy and childcare provisions in the Build Back Better initiative; power every household in the United States with solar energy; hire one million elementary school teachers; furnish free tuition for 2 out of 3 public college students in the U.S.; and could send every household in the U.S. a \$700 check to help offset effects of inflation; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Representatives Rashida Tlaib (D-MI-12) and Shri Thanedar (D-MI-13) are cosponsors of the People Over Pentagon Act of 2023 (H.R. 1134), which removes \$100 billion from the Department of Defense budget; and

WHEREAS, In June 2017, the United States Conference of Mayors, including Mayor Mike Duggan, unanimously passed a resolution calling upon all cities to hold public hearings on the ways that the federal defense budget hampers local spending on essential social services; and

WHEREAS, residents of Detroit have a right to know and publicly comment on how their tax dollars are spent and which services they want funded and prioritized; and

WHEREAS, Detroit would benefit if the federal government spent less on the military and more on transportation, education, housing, healthcare, environmental protection, and public goods and services; and

WHEREAS, the City Council of Detroit on November 21, 2023 has asserted itself nationally by calling for a ceasefire in Gaza, which implies a pro-peace demilitarization position; now therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Detroit calls on Congress and the President to move significant funds away from the military budget in order to fund social services, and to hold in-depth public hearings on the basic human needs of City residents that are unmet because of government appropriations for the Pentagon.