



## City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

**MARY SHEFFIELD**  
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT  
DISTRICT 5

### MEMORANDUM

**TO:** David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division  
**FROM:** Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council  
**DATE:** February 23, 2024  
**RE:** Request for Resolution in Support of House Bill HR40

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My office received a request from the Detroit Reparations Task Force to have a resolution drafted in support of House Bill H.R. 40.

House Bill H.R. 40, titled the Commission to Study and Develop Reparation Proposals for African Americans Act, seeks to establish a commission to study and develop reparation proposals for the institution of constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned slavery.

The Detroit Reparations Task Force believes that supporting this bill is a crucial step towards addressing historical injustices, as well as the legacy of the racism and brutality that is inextricably linked to the Trans-Atlantic and domestic slave trade. Furthermore, the Task Force would like the resolution to explicitly specify an investigation into monetary compensation as a form of reparations.

I am requesting that the Legislative Policy Division draft this resolution on behalf of the Detroit City Council in support of HB H.R.40 and the Detroit Reparations Task Force.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Yvonne Ragland from my office at [yvonne.ragland@detroitmi.gov](mailto:yvonne.ragland@detroitmi.gov).

Cc: Honorable Colleagues  
City Clerk