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City of Detroit
City Council
REPARATIONS TASK FORCE

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District 6
Janis Hazel
District 7
Edythe Ford
At-Large
VACANT
At-Large

To: City Council President Mary Sheffield
CC: Paris Blessman, Legislative Director, Office of City Council President
From: Emberly Vick, Project Manager, Detroit Reparations Task Force
Date: 20 February 2024

Subject: Request for the Drafting of a Resolution in Support of House Bill H.R. 40 from Detroit Reparations Task Force

Dear City Council President Sheffield,

I am writing on behalf of the Detroit Reparations Task Force to formally request that you ask the Legislative Policy Division to draft a resolution in support of House Bill H.R. 40.

As you are aware, 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 lasting 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. Monetary compensation is essential to providing direct redress to individuals and families who have suffered from persistent and systemic racism and inequality throughout generations.

We believe that endorsing House Bill H.R. 40 and advocating for monetary compensation within the resolution aligns with the principles of justice and equity that the City Council stands for. It is imperative that our city takes a proactive stance in supporting initiatives that aim to rectify past and present wrongs against our predominantly African American community.

We kindly request that the Legislative Policy Division promptly drafts this resolution as the first recommendation from the Detroit Reparations Task Force. Your support and leadership on this matter are greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue. Please do not hesitate to reach out if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Emberly Vick
Project Manager
Detroit Reparations Task Force