

# Testimonial Resolution for Ms. Maggie DeSantis

## **MS. MAGGIE DESANTIS**

**WHEREAS:** Maggie DeSantis is a native Detroiter and true luminary in Detroit's community development arena, dedicating over 40 years to its transformation. As the founding Executive Director of Warren/Conner Development Coalition (WCDC), later Eastside Community Network (ECN), she turned it into a leading force, earning accolades like Crain's Detroit Business' first 'Best Managed Non-Profit' in 1990 and Detroit LISC's 'Best Community Development Corporation' in the 1990s; and

**WHEREAS:** Maggie played key roles in Detroit's development, appointed to the Detroit Casino Gaming Commission by Mayor Coleman A. Young, Mayor Dennis Archer's Executive Transition Committee, and as a neighborhood representative on Detroit's Empowerment Zone Coordinating Council. Nationally recognized, she was appointed by President William Clinton to chair the Federal Home Loan Bank District Six from 1994 to 2001; and

**WHEREAS:** Her commitment goes beyond organizations; Maggie was instrumental in the late seventies 'Keep the Doors Open Campaign,' securing the Detroit Library System's first millage. Serving on boards like Detroit Eastside Community Collaborative and the Villages CDC, where she chaired its "GREEN Task Force;" and

**WHEREAS:** Maggie's impact continued after leaving ECN in 2016. She led the Building the Engine of Community Development in Detroit (BECDD) initiative, a citywide effort bringing together 200+ stakeholders. In 2020, she launched 'Community Development Strategies LLC,' offering invaluable insights to organizations like CDAD; and

**WHEREAS:** Maggie has received numerous awards and recognitions for her work, dating back to 1991 when she received the NANBPW Professional Woman of the Year and in 2018 the Maggie DeSantis Truth to Power Award was created in her honor; and

**WHEREAS:** Beyond her professional achievements, Maggie is a devoted single mother, residing in Detroit's Jefferson-Chalmers neighborhood. Her passion for reading, love for baseball, outdoor grilling, powerwalking, and road-tripping showcase the vibrant, multifaceted individual she is.

### **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED:** The Office of Councilwoman Latisha Johnson and the Detroit City Council join with family and friends to celebrate Maggie DeSantis for over forty years of dedicated service to the citizens of Detroit.