

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MARCH 2024 AS DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
AWARENESS MONTH**

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

- WHEREAS,** Adults and children of all ages, race, ethnicity, and gender identity live with developmental disabilities in the United States (U.S.); and
- WHEREAS,** Approximately 180,000 people in Michigan have a developmental disability, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that approximately one in six children have one or more developmental disabilities or delays in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS,** The Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act of 2000 (DD Act) has continued to evolve to prioritize the participation of people with developmental disabilities in their communities, as well as individualized support and assistance that promotes self-determination, independence, and productivity; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit citizens with developmental disabilities contribute significantly to this City’s schools, families, communities, and workforce; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit recognizes that every person, regardless of perceived ability, has valuable strengths, infinite capacity to learn and make decisions, and the capability to make valuable contributions to their communities if given the opportunity to do so; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit seeks to promote community inclusion for individuals with developmental disabilities, allowing them to choose where to live, where to work, and how to participate in meaningful community activities; and
- WHEREAS,** Systemic barriers reduce the likelihood of those with disabilities from enjoying equitable experiences and living independent, productive lives within their communities; and
- WHEREAS,** It is the shared responsibility of all Detroiters to end the stigma surrounding developmental disabilities, and that begins by using respectful language when talking to and about people with developmental disabilities; and
- WHEREAS,** Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month is an opportunity to recognize the importance of ensuring inclusive environments with equal access to communication, education, meaningful employment, housing, transportation, and public accommodations;
- WHEREAS,** Equitable experiences and full inclusion are a matter of social justice. Consequently, creating equitable and inclusive environments is a shared responsibility of everyone; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council recognizes March 2024 as Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.