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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: October 20, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRIKING DETROIT CASINO WORKERS**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRIKING DETROIT CASINO WORKERS.**

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

**BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRIKING DETROIT CASINO WORKERS**

- WHEREAS,** On October 17, 2023, roughly 3,700 employees of MGM Grand, MotorCity Casino Hotel, and Hollywood Casino at Greektown walked off the job after negotiations failed to reach new collective bargaining contracts; and
- WHEREAS,** Employees voted 99% in favor of the strike, including dealers, cleaning staff, food and beverage workers, valets, engineers, and others; and
- WHEREAS,** The striking employees are represented by the Detroit Casino Council, which includes the United Auto Workers, Teamsters Local 1038, UNITE HERE Local 24, Operating Engineers Local 324 and the Michigan Regional Council of Carpenters; and
- WHEREAS,** The Detroit Casino Council has articulated five core concerns that the companies have failed to address, which include protecting employees' health care benefits, additional job security and technology contract language common in other casino markets, improved value of retirement benefits, reduced workloads resulting from the 1,500 fewer casino jobs since the COVID-19 pandemic, and significant wage increases to compensate workers for their sacrifice during the pandemic; and
- WHEREAS,** In September of 2020, Detroit casino workers agreed to a 3-year contract extension with a minimal pay increase in order to help the casino industry recover from pandemic losses, which resulted in a 3% pay increase for casino workers while inflation has skyrocketed; and
- WHEREAS,** Meanwhile, gaming revenue at Detroit casinos has surpassed pre-pandemic levels. In 2022, the Detroit casino industry generated a record \$2.27 billion in gaming revenue they are on track for another record-breaking year in 2023; and
- WHEREAS,** Despite the rapid recovery of Detroit's casinos, they are still operating with 1,500 fewer workers than before the pandemic, meaning that current employees are forced to shoulder the extra workload without additional compensation; and
- WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Council supports working people across every sector of our economy and recognizes that working people deserve respect, adequate workplace protections, and the right to a living wage; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council supports and stands in solidarity with striking Detroit casino workers and the Detroit Casino Council as they continue to seek a resolution to the strike that results in improved compensation and working conditions for its members working for MGM Grand, MotorCity Casino Hotel, and Hollywood Casino at Greektown ; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk's Office provide a copy of this resolution to the Detroit Casino Council, MGM Grand, MotorCity Casino Hotel, and Hollywood Casino at Greektown.

