

**RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE MAY 2024 AS
NATIONAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION MONTH
BY CITY COUNCIL**

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit, encompassing 139 square miles, is home to diverse communities and cultures represented in our built environment and landscapes and mounds of the indigenous population; and

WHEREAS, Our city contains buildings dating from circa 1840 and represents a diverse range of architectural styles, types of materials, construction methods, histories, events, persons and cultures; and

WHEREAS, Designated historic districts can include individual buildings, groups of buildings, and areas or sites, including parks and landscapes and archeological sites; and

WHEREAS, To date, the City Council has been responsible for the designation of 151 local historic districts, which contains thousands of buildings protected from demolition and landscapes and parks protected from destruction; and

WHEREAS, With recommendations from the public, the Historic Designation Advisory Board studies potential City of Detroit Historic Districts; and

WHEREAS, With recommendations from the Historic Designation Advisory Board, the City Council designates City of Detroit Historic Districts; and

WHEREAS, With City of Detroit Historic District Designations, the City commits to insure that culturally, architecturally and historically significant places will be preserved for future generations to enjoy; and

WHEREAS, With City of Detroit Historic District Designations, the City commits to preserve the architectural unity and physical characteristics of a neighborhood, contributing to its improvement and stability; and

WHEREAS, With City of Detroit Historic District Designation, the City enables property owners to potentially utilize certain tax incentives available for rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit is currently experiencing the financial and aesthetic benefit of hundreds of rehabilitations and adaptive reuses of historic buildings, including:

- Michigan Central Station to Michigan Central mobility hub campus
- Higginbotham School to affordable housing
- St. Matthew School to affordable housing
- Fisher Body Plant 21 to market-rate and affordable housing
- Bonstelle Theatre incorporated into the Marriott International AC Hotel
- Henry M. Utley branch library to Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network offices
- Hundreds of single-family and multi-unit homes rehabilitated by dedicated homeowners and landlords

WHEREAS, The above list is not inclusive of all investments by **“People Saving Places”** in

Detroit's older and historic buildings and neighborhoods which are taking place in every City Council district; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that financial assistance is continually needed to rehabilitate, reuse and preserve these important projects that can serve as neighborhood anchors and help to revitalize neighborhoods and commercial corridors; and

WHEREAS, City Council supports Michigan House Bill 5430, with urgently needed proposed updates to the Michigan Historic Preservation Tax Credit, which will make the credit accessible to owner-occupied, multi-unit buildings and bed and breakfasts; non-profit organization-owned historic buildings; applicants holding long-term leases and purchase agreements of historic buildings; and increases the credit from 25% to 30% of qualified expenses for small-income producing and residential projects, among many other important revisions; and

WHEREAS, It is recognized that rehabilitation and reuse of older and existing buildings is an important sustainability tool for confronting climate change, as reuse of existing buildings prevents building and construction waste from entering landfills and our city's waste system; and that "the Greenest Building is the One That's Already Built"; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit will be launching in 2024 a citywide Historic Preservation Plan in which all citizens can participate; **NOW, THEREFORE**

BE IT RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council recognizes May as National Historic Preservation Month.