



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division
FROM: Mary Sheffield, President, Detroit City Council
DATE: May 6, 2024
RE: Request for Slavery Apology Resolution

I am requesting the Legislative Policy Division's assistance in drafting a resolution acknowledging and addressing the historical injustices inflicted upon Black residents of the City of Detroit. The resolution seeks to offer a formal apology for the systemic racism and discrimination that has resulted in generations of harm, inequality, and injustice, particularly stemming from events such as the 1943 Detroit race riot and the 1967 Detroit riot.

The proposed resolution acknowledges the devastating impact of discriminatory practices such as redlining, inadequate educational opportunities, and disenfranchisement through urban planning decisions. It recognizes these actions as part of a broader pattern of systemic racism and institutionalized discrimination that continues to affect Black residents to this day.

Please see the attached proposed resolution language for reference. If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Yvonne Ragland from my office at yvonne.ragland@detroitmi.gov.

Cc: Honorable Colleagues
City Clerk