

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 6 - 10 AS AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS,** More than 40 percent of the United States population live in areas with unhealthy levels of air pollution. Poor air quality negatively impacts health and can trigger asthma and other respiratory symptoms. Air pollution includes gases, smoke from fires, volcanic ash, dust particles, emissions from transportation, and other substances that can harm the lungs. Areas adjacent to manufacturing plants and roadways with high traffic typically have high rates of air pollution.
- WHEREAS,** In 2023, the Asthma and Allergy Foundation ranked Detroit as the country's fifth "most challenging" city for those with asthma. In the report, cities are ranked by the prevalence of asthma, emergency department visits for asthma, and deaths because of asthma. Detroit currently ranks second in the nation for asthma prevalence.
- WHEREAS,** Poverty level plays a significant role in a person's development of asthma and their ability to manage it. This is because individuals with low wealth are more likely to have poor quality housing, live near highways and/or areas with high air pollution, and lack the proper resources to access healthcare.
- WHEREAS,** Black Americans and Puerto Ricans are disproportionately diagnosed with asthma and have mortality rates three times higher than any other racial group. According to the Michigan Health Department, Black residents in Detroit are three times more likely to be hospitalized for asthma when compared to other racial/ethnic groups across the state.
- WHEREAS,** In Detroit, outdoor air quality is impacted by high rates of demolition and renovation that can provide an influx of allergens into the air, industrial and manufacturing land uses near neighborhoods, and heavy vehicular traffic. Indoor air quality is impacted by poor quality housing and infrastructure that often leads to water damage and consequentially, mold growth. This is coupled with chemicals from cleaning products, pets, cooking, and fragrance.
- WHEREAS,** Wildfires are becoming more common due to climate change and improper land use. Between April and August of 2023, Detroit's air quality was negatively impacted by wildfires originating in Canada.
- WHEREAS,** Every May, the Environmental Protection Agency hosts Air Quality Awareness Week May 6 - 10 which includes World Asthma Day on May 7th. Air Quality Awareness Week highlights resources that increase air quality awareness and encourages people to take action and incorporate air quality knowledge into their daily living. It also provides an opportunity for people to learn about what causes poor air quality and how people can prepare for and respond to events that impact air quality.

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Council understands the significant impact that air pollution has on the health and quality of life of Detroit residents.

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Council is committed to raising awareness of the detrimental impact of air pollution and working with city departments and local agencies to establish practices and policies to address and mitigate the harm imposed on communities across Detroit. **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, That Councilwoman Latisha Johnson and the Detroit City Council recognizes the week of May 6-10 as Air Quality Awareness Week.