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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: May 1, 2024

RE: **QUALIFICATIONS FOR FUTURE OF HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS**

Council Member Mary Waters requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution establishing the qualifications for future of health advisory board members.

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

BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARY WATERS

QUALIFICATIONS FOR FUTURE OF HEALTH ADVISORY BOARD MEMBERS

- WHEREAS,** The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit’s citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and
- WHEREAS,** The most recent United States Census report affirms that the City of Detroit represents Michigan’s largest group of Black and Hispanic people; and
- WHEREAS,** According to a National Institutes of Health study, “across clinical pathology interests and in almost every area studied, BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and other people of color) communities experience worse patient care and health outcomes;”¹ and
- WHEREAS,** Although race is a social construct, health disparities among different racial and ethnic groups exist because of healthcare systems and structures that were constructed by people in the dominant social group who internalized assumptions and biases about minority groups. As a result, Black patients receive lower quality healthcare than White patients, even when they have the same insurance status, income, age, and severity of conditions;² and
- WHEREAS,** General structural racism also accounts for many health disparities, which are the result of resource deprivation to racially/ethnically segregated communities in the form of inadequate or low-quality housing, environmental pollution, low-quality education, lack of green space, the creation of food deserts, and the proliferation of businesses providing unhealthy food options, liquor, and tobacco products; and
- WHEREAS,** According to another recent NIH report, there are also persistent racial disparities in biomedical research funding, and historical and structural disparities have not supported funding for Black researchers on topics that impact underserved communities;³ and
- WHEREAS,** The upcoming construction of the Henry Ford Health and Michigan State University Health Sciences Research Center in Detroit provides a unique opportunity to study racial disparities in healthcare and to create innovative solutions to eliminate those disparities; and
- WHEREAS,** Because most Detroit residents have likely experienced the negative effects resulting from racial disparities in healthcare, the Detroit City Council believes it is imperative that the local community has influence and oversight of the work done by the Health Sciences Research Center;
- WHEREAS,** Prior to Council’s approval of the Future of Health development, Norm Hubbard, Senior VP of Health Sciences for Michigan State University agreed to the creation of a Community Advisory Board for the new Health Sciences Research Center; and
- WHEREAS,** City Council requested that the Health Sciences Research Center compensate Board members with a stipend of \$300, Mr. Hubbard agreed to compensate the Board members at an amount to be determined in the future; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

¹ <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC10527840/>

² https://www.americanbar.org/groups/crsj/publications/human_rights_magazine_home/the-state-of-healthcare-in-the-united-states/racial-disparities-in-health-care/

³ <https://www.nih.gov/sites/default/files/research-training/initiatives/ending-structural-racism/unite-rfi-report-508c.pdf>

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council calls for the creation of a Community Advisory Board to represent the Detroit Community and serve at the Henry Ford and Michigan State University Health Sciences Research Center; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Community Advisory Board shall consist of 9 members who have their primary residence in Detroit, appointed as follows: three members appointed by City Council, three members appointed by the Mayor, and three members appointed by the Health Sciences Research Center; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, The Board appointees should represent a broad range of the local community with an emphasis on individuals who have a background in healthcare and public health; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, The Health Sciences Research Center will provide each Board member with a stipend for attending each official Board meeting; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to Mayor Mike Duggan and the Michigan State University Department of Health Sciences.