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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: July 9, 2024

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILLS 669 AND 670 TO
EXPAND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION ACT (FOIA) LAWS TO COVER THE
GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE**

Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution in support of Senate bills 669 and 670 to expand (FOIA) requests to the Governor and Legislature.

The requested draft resolution is attached. Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE BILLS 669 AND 670 TO EXPAND FOIA
LAWS TO COVER THE GOVERNOR AND LEGISLATURE**

COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD CALLOWAY

WHEREAS, the Governor and Legislature in Michigan have been exempted from Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests since the law was enacted in 1976, and

WHEREAS, Michigan is one of only two states that shields the Governor's office and Legislature from providing records under FOIA, and

WHEREAS, a 2015 report from the Center for Public Integrity found Michigan ranked last among the 50 states when it came to transparency and accountability in government, earning an F grade in 10 or the 13 categories of operations that were examined, and

WHEREAS, transparency is a fundamental component of democratic government which helps to protect individual rights by ensuring that government actions are subject to public review, and

WHEREAS, the rights of citizens to know about activities of their government, improves accountability, public trust and confidence, and prevents corruption, and

WHEREAS, the bipartisan legislation aimed at expanding FOIA to include the executive and legislative branches of state government sponsored by Senators Jeremy Moss, D-Southfield and Edward McBroom, R-Vulcan, was first introduced nine years ago while they were both in the state house, and

WHEREAS, approval of this bipartisan legislation demonstrates a commitment to increase government transparency and accountability, in turn helping to restore public trust in our institutions, and

WHEREAS, the Detroit City Council recognizes the importance of transparency at all levels of government and acknowledges that this is only one step in the right direction of making state government more accountable, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT,**

RESOLVED, the Detroit City Council supports the passage of SB 669 and SB 670 and request that copies of this resolution be forwarded to Governor Gretchen Whitmer and both branches of the Michigan Legislature.