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City of Detroit Detroit City Council

FROM THE DESK OF
Mary Waters, Member At-Large
2 Woodward Avenue, Suite 1340 Detroit, MI 48226

WHEREAS, the trio of DeShaun “Proof” Holton, Reginald “Mudd” Moorner, and Bernard “Thyme” Russell formed 5ELA (5 Elementz) during the legendary days of “The Hip Hop Shop” on Detroit’s West Seven Mile with fashion designer Maurice Malone and,

WHEREAS, Proof, Mudd and Thyme served as key employees and hosts of the legendary “Saturday Open Mics” that brought hundreds of youth artists together in the spirit of Detroit’s competitive rap music legacy, and

WHEREAS, 5ELA set the tone for the Detroit rap scene of the 1990s, helping to birth a movement that would propel locals like Slum Village, J.Dilla, and Eminem to stardom; and

WHEREAS, 5ELA was at the heart of that era’s youth spiritual movement known as The Order Of Divine Reality, and

WHEREAS, more than thirty years from their founding, 5ELA’s extensive music catalog continues to influence underground hip hop fans the world over with powerful lyrics focused on education, business and community building, and the power of mindfulness and resilience in the midst of Detroit social challenges; and

WHEREAS, protecting the legacy of Proof and J Dilla is paramount for Mudd who continues his music journey as a solo recording artist and manager of 5 ELA’s catalog while raising three daughters in Detroit, finally

BE IT RESOLVED Councilmember At-Large Mary Waters, and the entire Detroit City Council herein honors the historic contributions of 5ELA (5 Elementz) to Detroit’s musical legacy worldwide.