

COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD CALLOWAY

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF GOVERNOR GRETCHEN WHITMER'S
EXECUTIVE ORDER 2024-4 ESTABLISHING THE GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION
TASK FORCE**

- WHEREAS** In 2020, firearm related incidents became the leading cause of death for all children and adolescents in the United States, and
- WHEREAS** Michigan has the 15th highest rate of gun violence in the U.S., where in an average year, 1,212 people die and 3,507 are wounded by guns in Michigan., and¹
- WHEREAS** Michigan has the 29th highest societal cost of gun violence in the U.S. at \$909 per person each year, costing Michigan \$9 billion, of which \$423 million is paid by taxpayers, and²
- WHEREAS** Tragedies at Michigan State University, Oxford High School, the Rochester Hills splash pad, and most recently, the block party mass shooting on Detroit's eastside, serve as just a few sobering examples of what occurs when the root causes of gun violence are not addressed, and
- WHEREAS** The State of Michigan has taken action to change laws and policy to address gun violence, enacting legislation regarding background checks, safe storage laws, extreme risk protection orders, and stronger gun penalties for those convicted of domestic violence, and
- WHEREAS** The gun related violence epidemic in America represents a public health crisis, disproportionately impacting low-income and vulnerable communities, and
- WHEREAS** Black males are fifteen times more likely to be a victim of gun-related violence than their white, Hispanic, Indian, Asian, and other counterparts, both on a state-by-state basis and nationwide, and
- WHEREAS** Irrational and senseless, shootings continue to torment the community, prevent stability, and cause the deterioration of the most basic social contract of the right to live peacefully, and
- WHEREAS** On June 20, 2024, Governor Gretchen Whitmer enacted Executive Order No. 2024-4, establishing the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, for the purpose of serving in an advisory capacity to the governor and the director of the department on the root causes and possible solutions for gun violence in Michigan, and

¹ Everystat.org, Gun Violence in Michigan, 2021

² Id.

WHEREAS The task force may include representatives of the executive branch of state government from various divisions associated with community violence intervention, chronic disease and injury control, behavioral and physical health, victim services, and state police, and

WHEREAS The task force will engage various stakeholders, including local government officials, individuals with relevant lived experiences related to gun violence, medical professionals, research institutions, law enforcement and community organizations to review, develop, and recommend laws, policies, and other legally permissible action to reduce the rates and instances of gun violence in Michigan, and

WHEREAS The Detroit City Council recognizes the urgency of ending gun violence and preserving all lives in the City of Detroit and State of Michigan, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT,**

RESOLVED The Detroit City Council supports Executive Order 2024-4 and the establishment of the statewide Gun Violence Prevention Task Force to continue to raise awareness to the causes of gun violence and help build more solutions to prevent future gun related tragedies by identifying and addressing the root causes of this public health crisis plaguing our community, state, and country.