

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO
RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING DETROIT’S ORIGINAL NAME ON
INDIGENOUS PEOPLE’S DAY**

WHEREAS, In 2017, the Detroit City Council adopted a “Resolution Declaring the Second Monday in October Indigenous People’s Day”, to show respect to the original and continuing inhabitants of the region. The City of Detroit acknowledges the need to heal by honoring Detroit’s Anishinaabe community and the federally recognized tribes of Michigan, as well as all Indigenous people who come from across the Americas to live and work within the City’s limits; and

WHEREAS, The State of Michigan is home to 12 federally recognized Anishinabek Nations. The self-descriptive name, “Anishinaabe”, references the large group of culturally related Indigenous peoples (who identify by many names – *i.e.*, Ojibwe, Odawa, Bodewadmi, etc.) residing in what is now Canada and parts of the United States, including Michigan. In Ontario, the Anishinabek Nation is a political advocate for forty member First Nations across the province, tracing its roots to the *Confederacy of Three Fires*; and

WHEREAS, The land in which Detroit sits was not *discovered*, rather it has been occupied by Indigenous peoples long before Western written documented history. It is within the traditional territory of the *Confederacy of the Three Fires*, comprised of the Ojibwe (Chippewa), Odawa (Ottawa), and Bodewadmi (Potawatomi) Nations, and was home to many ancient nations, as evidenced by burial mounds and artifacts located along the Detroit River; and

WHEREAS, The common language of the Anishinaabe community is Anishinaabemowin, which has its own place name for the land the city rests on – *Waawiyatanong* (Waa-wiya-ta-nong), or “where the water goes around”; and

WHEREAS, To this day, much of Detroit’s existing roadway infrastructure is founded on Indigenous trail systems, created to travel and congregate here.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council on behalf of the people of Detroit, recognize and honor the City of Detroit as *Waawiyatanong* (Waa-wiya-ta-nong), “where the water goes around”, on Indigenous People’s Day, the second Monday in October, in this year, 2024, and every year henceforth on the second Monday in October; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council encourages research be conducted on trail marking designations so that appropriate street names may be identified, and signage supplemented, to reflect both the modern and historical names of geographical places throughout the City.