

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

PHS Referral

**RESOLUTION CALLING FOR MORE MPSC PUBLIC FEEDBACK ON THE 2024 DTE
ELECTRIC RATE CASE**

- WHEREAS,** Every time the power goes out, our community takes a hit. We spend hundreds of dollars replacing spoiled food and miss days of work and school. Blackouts are deadly: for elderly family members, neighbors who are vulnerable to heat exposure and sub-freezing temperatures, and people with medical devices that require electricity; and
- WHEREAS,** On average, DTE customers pay 25% more than the national average for energy costs. Currently, families are paying 25¢ per kilowatt-hour during Peak Hours from 3-7 pm, and \$1.03 during Critical Peak Hours when DTE evaluates grid output to be strained. DTE ratepayers had no input on the implementation of Peak Hours in 2023; and
- WHEREAS,** Our climate is at a tipping point where the need for clean, reliable, affordable energy is paramount to our survival. DTE has not risen to the occasion to meet this mandate, and our residents seek a just transition to better alternative energy; and
- WHEREAS,** DTE has received 5 rate increases since 2010, with rate increase requests at least once per year since 2022; and
- WHEREAS,** Attorney General Dana Nessel recovered information suggesting the \$456 million 2024 DTE rate case would have covered \$74,769 in private jets for DTE executives. These dollars should instead be going into our grid; and
- WHEREAS,** Constituents deserve co-governance and collaboration with their local lawmakers to pursue agency over how energy gets to our homes and how much we are paying for it. Meanwhile, DTE profits – which are not sufficiently improving the grid – instead line the pockets of shareholders and fund campaigns for sympathetic lawmakers. DTE is undermining democracy while funding this pursuit through the exploitation of our neighbors through their requested rate hikes. To empower deep democracy, we must remove lobbyists and dark money from our decision-making bodies and boards; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroiters are families, working-class people, professionals, and, most of all, our neighbors. We know what our needs are and dream of a city where our families can not only live but also thrive. Climate resiliency and remediation cannot happen without an effort to make these initiatives equitable; and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Detroit adopts the desire to move to the regenerative economy as explained in the Just Transition: to empower ourselves toward clean energy and away from fossil fuels that harm Black and Brown communities; and
- WHEREAS,** We need strong regulating and legislative bodies that stand with our communities, not with the interest of the profits of investor-owned utility companies. For too long, DTE has extracted profits from our communities without making the necessary investments into our grid; and
- RESOLVED,** The City of Detroit has a moral and fiscal responsibility to ensure equitable access to energy resources, reduce energy burdens, and promote energy policies that are just, sustainable, and serve the needs of all Detroit residents, particularly those most vulnerable; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

Sec'd @ the table 11-19-24 - Refers to PHS