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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: May 1, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK**

City Council Member Latisha Johnson has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution recognizing May 5-9, 2025 as Air Quality Awareness Week.

Please contact our office if you require any further assistance.

A Resolution by Council Member Latisha Johnson

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS** Clean air is essential to the health and well-being of all individuals, communities and ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS** Since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first recognized Air Quality Awareness Week over two decades ago, the week has been recognized across the country as a time to educate the public on the importance of protecting our air quality and to promote actions that improve air quality; and
- WHEREAS** As a city that was historically shaped and structured around industrial manufacturing, Detroit continues to reconcile its industrial roots with modern understandings of the harmful effects of air pollutants on human health; and
- WHEREAS** In the latest State of the Air report from the American Lung Association, the Detroit metro area ranked 6th worst in the nation for annual particle pollution;¹ and
- WHEREAS** Exposure to air pollution is causally linked to multiple negative health outcomes including cardiovascular disease, cancer development, respiratory illness, and stroke;² and
- WHEREAS** Many forms of air pollution pose a significantly higher risk for the elderly, children, and people with chronic respiratory illnesses such as asthma;³ and
- WHEREAS** Due to broader social and economic discrimination such as redlining, African American and ethnic minority populations disproportionately experience the negative effects of air pollution as they are more likely to be situated in the lowest valued areas that are closer in proximity to sources of pollution;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** Air Quality Awareness week emphasizes the importance of working together to improve air quality and protect public health, while recognizing the interconnectedness of air quality, climate change, transportation, and environmental justice; and
- WHEREAS** All individuals, businesses, and governments are stakeholders with an important role to play in improving air quality through reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, supporting clean energy initiatives, and staying informed about air quality levels through tools like the Air Quality Index;⁵ **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**

¹ <https://www.lung.org/research/sota/city-rankings/msas/detroit-warren-ann-arbor-mi>;
<https://www.detroitnews.com/story/opinion/columnists/paul-w-smith/2025/04/27/paul-w-smith-take-action-to-improve-air-quality-in-detroit/83274007007/>

² Keswani, A., Akselrod, H., & Anenberg, S. C. (2022). Health and Clinical Impacts of Air Pollution and Linkages with Climate Change. *NEJM Evidence*, 1(7), EVIDra2200068. <https://doi.org/10.1056/EVIDra2200068>

³ Simoni, M., Baldacci, S., Maio, S., Cerrai, S., Sarno, G., & Viegi, G. (2015). Adverse effects of outdoor pollution in the elderly. *Journal of Thoracic Disease*, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.3978/j.issn.2072-1439.2014.12.10>

⁴ Schulz, A. J., Mentz, G. B., Sampson, N., Ward, M., Anderson, R., Majo, R. de, Israel, B. A., Lewis, T. C., & Wilkins, D. (2016). RACE AND THE DISTRIBUTION OF SOCIAL AND PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENTAL RISK: A Case Example from the Detroit Metropolitan Area. *Du Bois Review: Social Science Research on Race*, 13(2), 285–304.

<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1742058X16000163>

⁵ <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/>

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes May 5-9, 2025 as Air Quality Awareness Week; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council encourages all members of the public to participate in the various community events for Air Quality Awareness Week, which are listed at <https://cleartheairmi.org/aqaw/>; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to the Mayor, the Detroit Health Department, Clear the Air, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Eastside Community Network, the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, Just Air, the Green Door Initiative, Michigan Climate Action Network, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, the Michigan Environmental Council, and Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision.