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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: May 8, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 16TH 2025 AS WORLD COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (CLT) DAY**

City Council Member Latisha Johnson has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution recognizing May 16, 2025, as World Community Land Trust (CLT) Day. The requested resolution is attached.

Please contact our office should you have any questions or require any additional information.

BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBER LATISHA JOHNSON

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MAY 16TH 2025 AS WORLD COMMUNITY LAND TRUST (CLT) DAY

WHEREAS World CLT Day is a global observance that unites participants from every continent to celebrate and raise awareness of community land trusts (“CLTs”), spotlighting their contributions to affordable housing, community empowerment, and sustainable development, and the 2025 World CLT Day Planning Committee exemplifies this international reach—bringing together 23 representatives from 16 organizations across 13 countries/regions—thereby underscoring the movement’s commitment to inclusive growth and transformative social change;¹ and

WHEREAS World CLT Day—observed annually on May 16th—invites community land trust (“CLT”) practitioners and supporters across the globe to celebrate affordable housing, land justice, and community empowerment by hosting events, sharing success stories, and connecting with peers, thereby amplifying the movement’s diversity and impact through multilingual, locally driven participation;² and

WHEREAS Community Land Trusts (“CLTs”) empower Detroit-based nonprofits, or cooperatives, to acquire and steward land for permanently affordable housing—thereby offering an immediately actionable, scalable solution to the city’s ongoing challenges of housing affordability, displacement, and neighborhood instability;³ and

WHEREAS The number of CLTs and other shared-equity programs in the United States grew by 30 percent—to more than 300 organizations—between 2011 and 2022 as jurisdictions sought durable affordability solutions in tight housing markets;⁴ and

WHEREAS CLTs are a proven shared-equity model that removes land from the speculative market and stewards it in perpetuity, thereby expanding homeownership and neighborhood stabilization opportunities for low- and moderate-income households;⁵ and

WHEREAS Recognizing World CLT Day aligns with Detroit’s commitment to advancing housing justice, preventing displacement, and promoting resident-led neighborhood revitalization; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council hereby designates **May 16th, 2025**, as World Community Land Trust Day in the City of Detroit and joins communities worldwide in celebrating the achievements and promise of the CLT movement; **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council commends the 2025 World CLT Day Planning Committee and its member organizations for championing permanently affordable, community-owned land across the globe; **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Clerk will transmit copies of this resolution to the Mayor, the Planning and Development Department, the Housing and Revitalization Department, the Detroit Land Bank Authority, the Michigan Community Land Trust Coalition, and the International Center for Community Land Trusts to affirm Detroit’s commitment to equitable land stewardship and long-term housing affordability.

¹ About World CLT Day, World CLT Day, <https://worldcltday.org/about-world-clt-day/> (last visited May 8, 2025)

² Id.

³ City of Detroit Legislative Policy Division, *Community Land Trusts* (May 11 2022), <https://detroitmi.gov/sites/detroitmi.localhost/files/2022-05/Community%20Land%20Trust%20Report.pdf>

⁴ Molly Bolan, *Hungry for Affordable Housing, Communities Turn to Land Trusts*, Route Fifty (Sept. 24, 2024), <https://www.route-fifty.com/management/2024/09/hungry-affordable-housing-communities-turn-land-trusts/399784/>.

⁵ John Emmeus Davis & Kristin King-Ries, *Preserving Affordable Homeownership: Municipal Partnerships with Community Land Trusts* (Lincoln Inst. of Land Policy 2024), <https://go.lincolnst.edu/preserving-affordable-homeownership-full.pdf>.