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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: April 25, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution declaring May as Mental Health Awareness Month.

A Resolution by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway

RESOLUTION DECLARING MAY AS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS MONTH

- WHEREAS,** Mental health is an essential component of overall health and well-being, and mental illnesses are common and treatable medical conditions that affect people of all ages, backgrounds, and walks of life; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), 1 in 5 U.S. adults experience mental illness each year, and 1 in 6 youth aged 6–17 experience a mental health disorder annually; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2024, the Detroit Police Department responded to over 16,000 mental health-related calls, averaging about 40 calls per day, indicating a pressing need for enhanced mental health support services;¹ and
- WHEREAS,** Detroiters face a disparity in their access to mental health services, as a survey conducted by the Detroit Regional Chamber revealed that only 13% of Detroit residents find it "very easy" to access mental health services in their area, compared to the national average of 20%;² and
- WHEREAS,** The City of Detroit recognizes the importance of addressing mental health with the same urgency and compassion as physical health, reducing stigma, and increasing access to necessary support and resources for all residents; and
- WHEREAS,** The COVID-19 pandemic has heightened mental health challenges and underscored the need for robust, accessible mental health care and community support systems; and
- WHEREAS,** Mental Health Awareness Month, observed nationally in May since 1949, provides an opportunity to educate the public, celebrate recovery, promote mental well-being, and advocate for policies that support mental health and wellness; and
- WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Council supports efforts to build awareness, break the stigma surrounding mental illness, and support the mental health of all Detroiters through community partnerships, outreach, education, and policy initiatives; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council hereby declares the month of May as Mental Health Awareness Month in the City of Detroit; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED,** That the Council encourages all residents, schools, businesses, and community organizations to observe this month with appropriate programs and activities that foster understanding, compassion, and action toward improving mental health for all.; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to Detroit Wayne Integrated Health Network (DWIHN), Team Wellness Center, CNS Healthcare, Stonecrest Center All Well-Being Services (AWBS) Southwest Solutions, Henry Ford Health – Behavioral Health Services, Central City Integrated Health, Detroit Health Department Chief Public Health Officer, Denise Fair Razo, City of Detroit Mayor Michael E. Duggan, and the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

¹ <https://www.michiganpublic.org/criminal-justice-legal-system/2024-12-24/detroit-police-got-16-000-mental-health-calls-this-year-heres-how-theyre-responding>

² Detroit Regional Chamber Foundation, 2023 Resident Voices Survey Report - <https://www.detroitchamber.com/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/2023-Detroit-Resident-Voices-Survey-Report-updated.pdf>

