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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: September 12, 2025

**RE: RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VULNERABLE ADULT
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM PLAN**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) produce a resolution in support of HB 4362 which would amend the Mozelle Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert Act to require Michigan State Police (MSP) to establish and maintain a missing senior and vulnerable adult medical alert system plan. The requested resolution is attached.

Please do not hesitate to reach out if we may be of any further assistance.

BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD CALLOWAY

**RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A VULNERABLE ADULT
MEDICAL ALERT SYSTEM PLAN**

- WHEREAS** A significant cause of missing persons incidents involves seniors and vulnerable adults, these incidents are particularly acute among those who suffer from some form of memory loss.
- WHEREAS** The Alzheimer’s Association estimates that approximately 60% of people with dementia will wander at some point¹; and vulnerable adults, including those living with developmental disabilities, mental illness, or physical impairments, face an elevated risk of going missing and encountering harm, underscoring the need for timely and coordinated responses²; and
- WHEREAS** Reports indicate that missing person incidents involving people living with dementia are increasing³ and the risk of getting lost and going missing due to memory loss or confusion is greater among those with Alzheimer’s disease or dementia;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** Vulnerable adults, including those with physical or developmental disabilities, mental illness, or other conditions, also face increased risks when reported missing, calling for coordinated responses from law enforcement and the community; and
- WHEREAS** Missing persons incidents involving vulnerable adults and seniors are an increasing concern due to an elevated risk to harm, and with an aging global population, the number of such incidents is expected to increase;⁵ and
- WHEREAS** Detroit is a predominantly Black city with a substantial older population: approximately one-quarter of its residents are aged 55 or older;⁶ and
- WHEREAS** There is a disproportionate number of missing persons cases involving Black people, including Black seniors, as compared to their representation in the U.S. population. Cases involving missing Black seniors face additional challenges due to systemic issues, such as underreporting and a lack of media attention;⁷ and
- WHEREAS** Alert systems increase public awareness and community involvement in search and rescue efforts, spotlighting the positive and important step the Michigan House of Representatives has taken to protect seniors and vulnerable adults by passing responsive legislation, that is House Bill 4362; and
- WHEREAS** HB 4362 establishes a statewide alert system requiring the Michigan State Police to issue wireless alerts under the Mozelle Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert Act to quickly locate those at risk;⁸ and

¹ Alzheimer’s Association, 2025 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures (2025), <https://www.alz.org/getmedia/ef8f48f9-ad36-48ea-87f9-b74034635c1e/alzheimers-facts-and-figures.pdf>; Kristin Finklea, Cong. Rsch. Serv., RL34616, Missing Adults: Background, Federal Programs, and Issues for Congress (2019), https://www.congress.gov/crs_external_products/RL/PDF/RL34616/RL34616_38.pdf.

² Id.

³ Miguel-Cruz, A., Adekoya, A. A., Daum, C., Liu, L., & Neubauer, N.. (2024, July 29). Implications of Public Disclosure of Personal Information in a Mobile Alert App for People Living With Dementia Who Go Missing: Qualitative Descriptive Study. <https://www.semanticscholar.org/paper/9f61ae6f738c59a44c0b6adbe3637f4a7f58ff7f>

⁴ Adebusola Adekoya, Christine Daum, Noelannah Neubauer, Antonio Miguel-Cruz & Lili Liu, *Implications of Public Disclosure of Personal Information in a Mobile Alert App for People Living With Dementia Who Go Missing: Qualitative Descriptive Study*, 8 *JMIR Aging* e64847 (2025), <https://aging.jmir.org/2025/1/e64847>.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Detroit Future City, *139 Square Miles: People*, Detroit Future City Report 12 (Nov. 2017), available at https://detroitfuturecity.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/11/DFC_139-SQ-Mile_People.pdf.

⁷ PBS Article

“‘When a Black Person Goes Missing, Families Say Their Cases Get Left Behind,’” *PBS NewsHour*, (approximate date), available at <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/nation/when-a-black-person-goes-missing-families-say-their-cases-get-left-behind>. NNPA Campaign Article

Stacy M. Brown, *NNPA Launches ‘Missing & Black 2025’ Campaign to Spotlight Disparities in Media Coverage of Missing Black Individuals*, NNPA Newswire (Feb. 28, 2025), <https://www.nnpa.org/nnpa-launches-missing-black-2025-campaign-to-spotlight-disparities-in-media-coverage-of-missing-black-individuals/>.

⁸ House Fiscal Agency, Legislative Analysis, House Bill 4362: Missing Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert System Plan (Mich. 2025), July 23, 2025, available at <https://legislature.mi.gov/documents/2025-2026/billanalysis/House/pdf/2025-HLA-4362-J902XSKL.pdf>.

- WHEREAS** Under the statewide alert system, when a senior (60+) or vulnerable adult is reported missing, local law enforcement must notify the state police, which would then activate the alert if policy criteria were met;⁹ and
- WHEREAS** House Bill 4362 also requires the establishment of a plan designed to rapidly disseminate useful information to wireless devices through the existing wireless emergency medical alert system operated under federal law;¹⁰ **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Council strongly urges the Michigan Senate to pass House Bill 4362, to establish a statewide alert system that will mobilize the community and law enforcement in locating missing seniors and vulnerable adults, helping keep some of the state's most vulnerable residents safe, **NOW BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Clerk will transmit copies of this resolution to the members of the Michigan Legislature, the Governor of Michigan, the Michigan State Police, and the Detroit Agency on Aging to urge their full and immediate support.

⁹ Brendan Sanders, *Michigan House Passes Bill to Create Alert System for Missing Seniors and Vulnerable Adults*, Manistee News Advocate (Sept. 4, 2025), available at <https://www.manisteenews.com/news/article/michigan-senior-alert-bill-21031155.php>

¹⁰ House Fiscal Agency, Legislative Analysis, House Bill 4362: Missing Senior or Vulnerable Adult Medical Alert System Plan (Mich. 2025), July 23, 2025, available at <https://legislature.mi.gov/documents/2025-2026/billanalysis/House/pdf/2025-HLA-4362-J902XSKL.pdf>.