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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: November 5, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF SB 611 AND SB 612 TO PROHIBIT
PETITIONER FEES FOR PPOs IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway has requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) produce a resolution in support of SB 611-612 which will prohibit a court or law enforcement agency from charging petitioners a fee in personal protection order (PPO) proceedings involving domestic violence or stalking. The requested resolution is attached.

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

BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD CALLOWAY

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF SENATE BILLS 611 AND 612 TO PROHIBIT PETITIONER FEES FOR PPOs IN DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

- WHEREAS** A Personal Protection Order (PPO) is a court order intended to stop or prevent specific individuals from engaging in threatening, harassing, or violent behavior toward the petitioner, as civil orders issued by a circuit court under Michigan’s personal protection laws;¹ and
- WHEREAS** A domestic relationship Personal Protection Order (PPO) may prohibit an abuser from committing or threatening acts of violence, harassment, intimidation, or interference with the petitioner’s safety, personal freedom, employment, education, or custody of children;² and
- WHEREAS** After a judge issues a Personal Protection Order (PPO) in Michigan, law enforcement does not always serve the order on the respondent, requiring some victims to hire a process server, rely on friends or family to deliver the paperwork, or send it by mail.³ If the order has not been properly served, the respondent may not face arrest for violating it;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** Senate Bills 611 and 612, sponsored by Senator Stephanie Chang and Senator Ruth Johnson respectively, have been introduced in the Michigan Legislature to amend the Revised Judicature Act to strengthen the process and fairness of serving court documents in Personal Protection Order (PPO) proceedings related to domestic violence and stalking;⁵ and
- WHEREAS** Senate Bill 611 would prohibit any court or law enforcement agency from charging or collecting a fee from a petitioner seeking a PPO related to domestic violence or stalking, ensuring that no financial barrier prevents victims from accessing timely and critical legal protections;⁶ and
- WHEREAS** Senate Bill 612 would create the Personal Protection Order Service Fund, administered by the Michigan Department of State Police, to reimburse law enforcement agencies for the cost of serving court documents in these cases, thereby complying with Section 40121 of the Federal Violence Against Women Act (34 U.S.C. § 10450) and preserving Michigan’s eligibility for vital federal grant funding aimed at combating domestic and gender-based violence;⁷ and
- WHEREAS** The proposed legislation recognizes the hardship faced by victims of abuse and seeks to ensure that protection under the law is accessible, immediate, and without financial burden;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Council, in furtherance of its firm commitment to eradicate domestic violence within our communities, strongly urges the Michigan Legislature to adopt Senate Bills 611 and 612 to modify requirements for serving a court document in a personal protection (PPO) proceeding related to domestic violence or stalking; **BE IT FINALLY**

¹ Mich. Comp. Laws §§ 600.2950 (Domestic Relationship PPO) and 600.2950a (Non-Domestic/Stalking or Sexual Assault PPO) (West 2025).

² Id.

³ Beth LeBlanc, *Michigan Supreme Court Eliminates Fees for Personal Protection Orders*, Detroit Free Press (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.freep.com/story/news/politics/2025/10/16/fees-personal-protection-orders-michigan/86711183007>.

⁴ Id.

⁵ Id.

⁶ Michigan Senate Fiscal Agency, *Senate Bills 611 & 612: Modify Service of Process for Specific PPOs*, S.B. 611 & S.B. 612, 102d Leg., Reg. Sess. (Oct. 28, 2025), <https://www.senate.michigan.gov/sfa>.

⁷ Id.

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Clerk will transmit copies of this resolution to the Detroit Delegation of the Michigan Legislature, the Wayne County Clerk, the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office, the Detroit Police Department, SASHA Center, First Step, Avalon Healing Center, and the Domestic Violence and Exploitation Task Force.