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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director Legislative Policy Division 

DATE: April 13, 2026

RE: **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL COMPOSTING AWARENESS WEEK**

Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) produce a resolution recognizing May 3 through May 9, 2026 as International Composting Awareness Week.

Please reach out to our office if you need any further assistance.

COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL COMPOSTING AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS** International Composting Awareness Week (ICAW) is the world’s largest education and awareness campaign focused on composting, and it is held each year during the first week of May to raise public awareness of the benefits of composting organic materials and using compost to build healthier soil; and
- WHEREAS** Composting is a way of returning organic resources to the soil and is a way of conserving water during extreme drought or flooding conditions, reducing water consumption and non-point pollution; and a proven method of decreasing the dependence on chemical fertilizers and decreasing erosion; and
- WHEREAS** Composting is an effective form of waste reduction, reuse, and recycling; and since organic materials make up approximately 30% of the material going to landfills, composting is becoming one of the primary methods communities use to reach waste diversion goals; and
- WHEREAS** Materials such as yard trimmings, vegetable cuttings, biosolids, food scraps, manures, and hay shavings, when properly managed to protect public health and the environment, have all been composted and converted into a beneficial product known as compost; and
- WHEREAS** Communities, through their local governments, highway departments, soil conservation service and extension offices, and public works professionals, can have a significant impact on clean water, soil, climate change, and landfill diversion by using compost for public works projects; and
- WHEREAS** This year, the theme of ICAW is Compost: Feed the Soil that Feeds Us. The 2026 theme was chosen with the goal of highlighting the benefits of composting in agriculture and food production, and its role in supporting healthy, nutritious food, and by extension, healthy people and communities. Beyond responsible waste management, composting recognizes the interconnectedness between every person who eats and the earth that provides all of our food, as well as our agency in feeding the earth our scraps so that the soil may continue to provide for us abundantly; and
- WHEREAS** For Detroit in particular, compost can be an excellent tool to be used as part of a larger stormwater management strategy due to its ability to slow down and infiltrate water, which makes it a great complement for green infrastructure projects that use natural ecosystem processes to accommodate stormwater flows; and
- WHEREAS** Each year, more than half of the 251 million pounds of food waste in Detroit comes from residential households, and composting this food waste would support the Detroit Climate Strategy, as one of its top priorities is to “Accelerate Energy Efficiency and Reduce Waste;” and
- WHEREAS** In 2025, the City of Detroit started the Composting Pilot Program, which is the City’s first municipal food scrap drop-off program aimed at turning household food waste into nutrient-rich compost to support local soil health and food systems; and

WHEREAS The Detroit City Council recognizes the efforts of the Compost Research & Education Foundation, extension agents, soil conservation stewards, householders, landscapers, farmers, recyclers, public workers, composters, watershed health advocates, and plant growers everywhere who contribute to the positive impacts of composting; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes May 3 through May 9, 2026 as International Composting Awareness Week; **NOW, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to Mayor Sheffield, Governor Whitmer, the Compost Research & Education Foundation, the Michigan Recycling Coalition, Midtown Composting & Recycling, Sanctuary Farms, Sustainable Community Farms, Scrap Soils, the Detroit Food Policy Council, and Keep Growing Detroit.