

DETROIT CITY COUNCIL

Testimonial Resolution

Shawn Smith

Head Referee, Super Bowl LX
2026

WHEREAS, Shawn Smith, born and raised in Detroit from the Herman Gardens Projects and a proud Comet graduating from Cody High School in 1989, achieved a historic milestone by serving as Head Referee for Super Bowl LX in 2026; AND

WHEREAS, Prior to officiating, Smith ran Track and Field and graduated from Ferris State University in 1994; AND

WHEREAS, Smith's remarkable journey began officiating Pop Warner games and culminated in an 11-season NFL officiating career among the elite ranks of professional football officials; AND

WHEREAS, Outside the NFL, Smith likes to golf, active in his fraternity Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., speaks to sports club, train referees for the Big Ten, and serves as a Labor Relations Manager for Blue Cross Blue Shield, balancing his professional career with his commitment to excellence on the field; AND

WHEREAS Smith is a proud Husband to Janice Smith, and Proud father to Kenyata Smith, LaToya Smith, Shawn Smith, and Shaniel Smith; AND

WHEREAS, As one of the few Black referees in NFL history to lead a Super Bowl crew, Smith's achievement represents personal excellence and a significant moment for diversity in professional sports; AND

WHEREAS, Shawn Smith's appointment as Head Referee for Super Bowl LX marks the achievement that brings pride to Detroit and inspires young people to pursue excellence. Smith's dedication and commitment to fairness exemplify Detroit's values and demonstrate what can be achieved through hard work. His journey from Detroit's neighborhoods to the world's biggest sporting stage demonstrates the boundless potential of our city's youth;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That on this, the 14th day of April in the year 2026, Council President James E. Tate, Jr., and the entire Detroit City Council, on behalf of the residents of the City of Detroit, hereby congratulate and honor Shawn Smith for his historic achievement as Head Referee of Super Bowl LX. The Council commends his dedication to excellence, his role in breaking barriers, and his proud representation of Detroit on the world's largest sports stage.

Handwritten signatures of Council members and President James E. Tate, Jr. over printed names and titles.

April 14, 2026
DATE