BY ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS:

WHEREAS, The Honorable Mayor Mike Duggan presented his proposed Executive Budget for FY 2022-23 and a Four-year Financial Plan for the City of Detroit to the Honorable Detroit City Council on March 7, 2022, and in fulfillment of its Charter-mandated role and in keeping with past practice, City Council held hearings and deliberations on the proposed Executive Budget for FY 2022-2023 as submitted by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, The loosening of the grip that the COVID-19 has had on the world has allowed for the gradual return to more normalized commercial and civic life, along with our receipt of substantial unanticipated federal and state aid has allowed for a more conventional 2023 budget process, despite an ongoing outflow of resources required to maintain our community through this crisis; and

WHEREAS, Following the City of Detroit’s (City) emergence from bankruptcy at the end of 2014, the City has been on an increasingly positive trajectory toward the future. Reinvestment in the City’s infrastructure has been ongoing, with fiscal restraint remaining paramount; and, the alignment of expenditures and revenues continues to be balanced with improvements in service delivery to residents; and

WHEREAS, Michigan Public Act 181 of 2014 (Act 181) provided for State oversight of the City’s finances for at least thirteen years. The FY 2021-2022 budget process proceeded under a waiver of active oversight, granted by the Financial Review Commission (FRC) in April 2018, following three consecutive years of successful adherence to deficit-free budgets. The annually renewable waiver requires that The City is required to submit its adopted budget and four-year financial plan to the FRC by April 30 of each year in order to obtain; and

WHEREAS, Pursuant to Sec. 8-213 of the 2012 City Charter and Public Act 182 of 2014, the City’s Chief Financial Officer, Budget Director, Auditor General, and the City Council’s Legislative Policy Division, along with other top officials held a revenue estimating conference which determined reasonable, agreed upon revenue projections of General Fund revenues for the upcoming fiscal year, totalling $1.215 billion; and

WHEREAS, The FY 2023-2026 four-year financial plan, as presented to City Council, shows employee benefits increasing from $20.9 Million in FY 2023 to $151.5 Million in FY 2024, an increase of $131 Million. More specifically, discretionary pension contributions will go from zero to $131 Million in FY 2024. The FY 2024 $131 Million pension payment is based on a 30-year amortization period for the General Retirement System and a 20-year amortization for the Police & Fire Retirement System. The OCFO estimates the FY 2024 pension payment to be $146 Million based on a 20-year amortization period for both pension systems. The Retiree Protection Trust Fund (RPTF) was projected to grow to $460 Million to soften the pension blow in FY 2024; and
WHEREAS, In FY 2024, the pension payment could approach 11% of the general fund recurring budget under a 30-year amortization period. The pension payment could approach 13% of the general fund recurring budget under a 20-year amortization period. The amount of the City’s annual pension payment fluctuates depending on how the stock market and the pension investments perform, the pension payback period (payment amortization period) and how much the City owes in pensions (unfunded actuarial liability). Conservative budgeting needs to be continued to reflect fiscal realities and avoid a reversion into bankruptcy and to diminish the City’s ability to provide critical services. Pension costs will need extremely close monitoring; and

WHEREAS, On this day, April 14, 2022, the Detroit City Council adopts a program budget that is based on sound conservative budgetary principles for municipalities, well-reasoned financial assumptions and past performance, as well as stated goals and projections for City departments, divisions and agencies, as well as in consideration of the dictates of the “Plan for the Adjustment of Debts of the City of Detroit” (POA); and

WHEREAS, For several years now, the Administration has astutely recognized that the City’s Plan of Adjustment contained several questionable key assumptions that need to be addressed to manage the projected shortfall in the City’s pension obligations. The City has established a Retiree Protection Trust Fund that will allow the City to build up approximately $460 Million in trust assets to offset the City’s annual required contributions that resume in FY 2024. In September 2017, for FY 2018, the City transferred the first $105 Million in funding. In FY 2019, $40 Million was contributed to the fund, $45 Million in FY 2020, $50 Million in FY 2021 and will contribute $135 Million in FY 2022 and $90 Million in FY 2023. The trust is intended to ensure that pensioners who have already suffered a significant loss due to the City’s bankruptcy will not be harmed further by a collapse of the pension system. The trust assets should allow for prudent financial planning sufficient to avoid a steep deficiency in pension payments and to stabilize the City’s financial future; and

WHEREAS, Prudent financial planning to lessen the impact of the large looming pension payment starting in FY 2024 on the City’s finances include: 1) developing a plan to grow general fund revenue through developing new revenue sources, instituting increased collection efforts of existing revenue sources, generating more economic development projects and increasing workforce development opportunities in the City to grow the tax base; 2) identifying additional funding for the Retiree Protection Trust Fund; and 3) exploring ways to operate more efficiently by reducing administrative and other City costs to lower expenditures and create more room to better absorb the increase in pension costs; and

WHEREAS, In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Congress adopted the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, which allocated $826.7 Million to the City of Detroit to remedy fiscal shortfalls caused by mandatory shut-downs. The first tranche of 50%, or $413 Million, was received in June 2021, and the remaining half is expected this year. Considering the influx of additional funding from the federal government, City Council along with the Administration a working group or task force to examine the restrictions and availability of the federal funds, as well as, to determine how those funds can be used, within federal spending guidelines, to finance ideas proposed during the budget process that were unable to be funded due to lack of available capital; and
WHEREAS, In acknowledgement of the valuable contributions that DDOT drivers have made and continues to make daily through this current health crisis, City Council requests that DDOT bus drivers be given a one-time bonus as a front-line workers throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, City Council requests a $6 million earmark of ARPA transit grant funds to provide this bonus to DDOT bus drivers which will allow DDOT to remain competitive among other employers; and

WHEREAS, City Council urges DDOT to develop, implement and advertise a rider’s code of conduct, so that riders understand the behavioral and safety expectations particularly relative to bus drivers and other riders; and

WHEREAS, City Council also urges DDOT to install an updated data storage system to provide high-quality bus digital camera footage, with sufficient cloud based storage that can be easily retrieved, including past footage; and

WHEREAS, Downtown workers, residents and visitors continue to rely on the People Mover to shuttle throughout the downtown area. City Council encourages continuous and committed financial support for the People Mover as an invaluable asset of the city’s transit infrastructure future; and

WHEREAS, City Council continues to support the investment in the Coleman A. Young International Airport and the opening of McNichols from the Outer Drive/Conner intersection to Van Dyke. Moving the Airport closer to financial independence from the general fund; and

WHEREAS, While the Port Authority continues to be a leading agency in Michigan marketing and promoting Detroit and Wayne County as a port of call for cruise liners in the Great Lakes system. Council encourages the Port Authority to examine ways to increase and provide affordability and diversity in contracts with luxury tour liners; and

WHEREAS, Based on the number of complaints City Council receives from residents regarding parking tickets and their lack of knowledge about the ability to receive a Detroit Resident Discount, it is abundantly clear that the City needs to increase its efforts to educate the public about the program. In that vein, City Council is urging the Municipal Parking Department and the Administration to employ other methods of advertising and marketing the Detroit Resident Parking Discount program to Detroiter; and

WHEREAS, There has been a significant disparate impact on Detroiter and Detroit businesses because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Consequently, transportation to work, to healthcare facilities and to routine daily activities have become increasingly more difficult for low-income residents. In an effort to ensure that all Detroiter have access to safe and reliable transportation, City Council is urging the Administration to appropriate $10 Million in American Rescue Plan Act funding for a Detroit Department of Transportation low-income fare pilot program; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit continues to struggle to adequately inform the public of programs designed to help our most vulnerable residents because of insufficient advertisement and notification that is designed and directed specifically to them. One example is the discount on the
City’s Solid Waste Fee available to Senior Citizens. As such, City Council is requesting that the Administration increase advertising and notification efforts for the Solid Waste Fee discount; and

WHEREAS, Certain communities within the City of Detroit experience increased levels of exposure to environmental concerns impacting their health and safety, City Council urges the Administration to increase support of public health monitoring to ensure that the unique needs of all residents of Detroit are understood and addressed. Robust public health programming can ensure that uniquely impacted residents have access to necessary services and will benefit from programs to ensure their well-being; and

WHEREAS, Due to the abundance of vacant homes and buildings, illegal dumping and overgrown lots and alleys rodents and vermin have a plethora of harborage options within the City’s limits. This presents a danger to public health that has been exacerbated by the elevated level of demolition activity in recent years. Therefore, City Council urges the Administration, through the Environmental Services Department, to increase the number of baits when responding to complaints and develop a plan to proactively address the issue; and

WHEREAS, There are approximately 25,000 new cancer cases diagnosed in Metropolitan Detroit each year, with about 25% of those being diagnosed in African Americans. Having a healthy population is integral to the success of the city, therefore, we urge the Administration to work with the Detroit Health Department to create a website dedicated to providing resources to address the cancer disparity in the African American population; and

WHEREAS, Detroit’s maternal mortality rate is three times the national average and black women are 4.5 times more likely to die during childbirth than non-Hispanic white women. Birth outcomes, especially for black mothers, significantly improve when there is access to comprehensive prenatal and postpartum family planning services. We urge the Administration and City Council to work cooperatively with the Health Department to find solutions to the disparities of access that drive negative pregnancy outcomes for Black mothers in Detroit; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit currently has no policy as it relates to parental leave. Detroit is one of the few large municipalities with no framework or access to parental leave for expecting parents. Access to Parental leave for expecting mothers and fathers is not only critical for comprehensive family planning, but it is also critical to the health of both parent and child after birth. We propose that City of Detroit approve Paid Parental Leave in the FY22-23 budget to begin calendar year January 2023, and to use the remaining months of calendar 2022 to build comprehensive program offering 6 weeks of parental leave utilizing $1,000,000 of recurring funds; and

WHEREAS, The disparity in compensation between men and women in the workforce has existed for ages, it has been reported and well documented, and endures through present day. Council urges the Administration to conduct an independent audit on pay disparities to ensure that wages paid to City of Detroit employees reflect pay equity relative to gender and comply with all State and Federal laws; and
WHEREAS, In order to assist residents in engaging with the City to meet their basic service needs, City Council urges the Administration to reinitiate the 311 call center and place this needed service within the Department of Neighborhoods, which will allow residents to locate information about City services, make complaints, or report needs in their neighborhoods. This will allow residents to more easily locate information and will strengthen the broader relationship between the City and its residents;

WHEREAS, New and improved retail corridors can spark new life in communities, creating jobs and offering much needed goods and services. Council requests Planning & Development Department (PDD) and DEGC appropriate funds for a Retail Corridor Study in District 7 to determine the viability of economic growth by identifying appropriate improvements and the types and scale of new potential developments; and

WHEREAS, To further invest in the residents of Detroit and to better match their needs with public services provided, the Council supports funding programs through the Neighborhood Improvement Fund to support neighborhoods outside of the greater downtown community. These neighborhoods, to varying degrees, have been historically neglected and would benefit from resources for affordable housing and community development; and

WHEREAS, The City’s landscape is changing and the need for more affordable housing options is growing greater each year. Council urges the Planning and Development Department to provide additional funding for more equitable and inclusionary multi-family affordable housing studies, to be better prepared to fulfill the growing demand; and

WHEREAS, Detroit’s significant decline in population has led to a loss of residential structures, specifically, single-family housing, creating swaths of vacant, publicly owned land within the city where single family homes can be built. Single-Family housing stabilizes neighborhoods, provides space to raise a family, and can encourage population growth. As such, we urge the Administration to focus development efforts towards providing more single-family housing; and

WHEREAS, The Make It Home Program enables renters who live in tax foreclosed properties to become homeowners. There are thousands of individuals and families in need of secure housing in our city and this program will serve as a vital tool in assisting families and individuals escape the perils and trauma that homelessness brings. Council urges the Administration to allocate an additional $3 million in ARPA funding to the Make It Home Program; and

WHEREAS, City Council requests $3 million to fund a Homelessness Prevention and Diversion program; and

WHEREAS, Homeowners in Detroit have had a profound lack of access to financing for home repairs, either due to credit, income, and/or home valuation. This lack of access to financing has left homeowners unable to maintain their homes and contributes to unsafe and unhealthy living conditions. To help combat these issues, Council requests continued funding and support from the Administration for the cities 0% Home Repair Loan Program; and
WHEREAS, Due to the aging of Detroit’s housing stock and the accelerated demolition of residential structures, there is a need for capital improvements to the remaining housing stock, including garages, fencing, sidewalks and porches. City Council urges the Administration to establish, from ARPA funds, a $17 million Capital Improvement Fund for Detroit homeowners, with income requirements modeled after the Michigan Homeowners Assistance Fund; and

WHEREAS, According to a Michigan study, there are over 14,000 students in Detroit who are either homeless or housing insecure; However due to inconsistent surveying this number is likely greatly undercounted. Council urges the administration, along with the Housing and Revitalization Department to identify funding from CDBG dollars in the amount of $3,000,000 to fund and target specific programming to provide permanent housing for affected students and their families; and

WHEREAS, As the City grows and uses taxpayer funds to develop public land it is imperative that the review procedure be codified for the inclusive participation and engagement of all parties, especially residents. Council urges that the City of Detroit mandate a Uniform Land Use Review procedure to ensure transparency in planning and development plans for the future of the city; and

WHEREAS, Negotiated benefits that have been secured from developers, through development agreements, tax incentive agreements and as result of the Community Benefits Ordinance, City Council requests that the Law department and CRIEn vigorously enforce non-compliance of these agreements for the benefit of the community, who have right to rely on these commitments; and

WHEREAS, Local government have created a variety of financing tools that can leverage private dollars, assist developers in financing projects, or fund property improvements needed for redevelopment. Ordinary citizens are often unaware of how these financing tools work. Council urges the Administration through DEGC to utilize funding to establish a program to educate residents on how the various development incentives work; and

WHEREAS, To better educate city residents as potential developers, City Council encourages the DEGC and HRD to develop a Citywide lecture series, utilizing all available media including, Detroit’s PEG stations to inform the public about tax abatements, development incentives, the process DEGC uses to assess the finances of the development project and to demonstrate how these incentives accrue to the benefit of developers, the City and other taxing jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, The residents in the Brightmoor neighborhood, with an average household income of $35k per year, have been burdened for decades with a combination of challenged housing stock, malicious landlords and urban decay. Despite broken promises of the past, the community continues to display a tenacious social infrastructure and aspirational comeback. City Council urges the Administration to require the developer and current owner of the Brightmoor Scattered Homes to make critical capital repairs to the aging homes. And for the City to also create a funding mechanism that would encourage the developer to sell the homes to interested residents and responsible purchasers, including providing down payment assistance to residents to facilitate the conversion of the scattered site rental homes to homeowner occupied housing; and

WHEREAS, The Casino Development Fund was established by the three Detroit Casinos (MGM Grand Detroit, MotorCity, and Greektown) to contribute money for the purpose of assisting
minority business development in the city of Detroit. Council urges the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) to work with members of City Council to establish programs beneficial to citizens, by collaborating to establish additional programs with reprogrammed dollars and surplus funds from the Casino Development Fund; and

WHEREAS, Education and professional development is essential to enhancing the City employee productivity and the delivery of services to residents. Recognizing that there is a significant return on the City’s investment in the education of its employees, City Council believes there should be a complete reinstatement of the employee tuition reimbursement program by the Administration, which will assist in both attracting and retaining talent; and

WHEREAS, Guaranteed income programs have been successfully instituted in numerous municipalities throughout the country, providing temporary assistance to individuals and families to foster growth and healthy living. Council urges the Administration allocate $3,000,000 from ARPA funds and private donations for a guaranteed income pilot project; and

WHEREAS, The Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) hearing schedule has increased dramatically in recent years. City Council request that the BZA explore impaneling two or three BZA hearing panels to allow for shorter wait times and more manageable agendas; and

WHEREAS, Developers and the Administration often cite the hiring of Detroiters and the setting aside of affordable units as justifications for the use of tax abatements on new housing developments. Unfortunately, the monitoring of such commitments has been insufficient if not non-existent. In response, City Council is urging the Administration to develop methods and hire adequate staff to properly monitor commitments made by developers that receive tax abatements; and (to be moved)

WHEREAS, The lack of maintenance of Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) property continues to plague neighborhoods and diminishes the quality of life and property values of Detroiters. Residents, over the last 8 years, have adamantly voiced their concerns and desire to reduce the blight in their communities caused by DLBA property. On behalf of the residents affected, City Council is urging the Administration to develop a plan, in conjunction with the Detroit Land Bank Authority, to better maintain these properties; and

WHEREAS, Detroit Land Bank Authority (DLBA) property disposition policies have been a source of consternation for Detroiters especially in neighborhoods targeted for new development. City Council has been inundated with complaints from residents about the lack of opportunity to purchase property in their neighborhood that they themselves have maintained for years. In order to ensure more equity for Detroiters with respect to the ability to acquire publicly-owned land, City Council is requesting that the DLBA and the Administration to reevaluate and submit to City Council, for approval, changes to their disposition policy to address this issue; and

WHEREAS, the City’s demolition program has been responsible for taking down thousands of dilapidated buildings over the years, many owned by private individuals. Council requests that the
City adopt an aggressive program to seek damages against private property owners for the actual cost of demolition and explore the possibility of using outside debt collection counsel for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, To further invest in Detroit’s workforce, City Council urges Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation (DESC) to raise its projected minimum wage to $15 per hour for all programs such as the Detroit-At-Work and Earn-to-Learn programs which will increase accessibility to these programs, offer a livable wage and permit them to remain relevant to the needs of participants; and

WHEREAS, The need for skilled trades workers remained strong even throughout the pandemic, with an estimated 2 million additional jobs ready to be filled over the next decade. City Council urges the Detroit Employment Solutions to develop a skilled trades pilot program in conjunction with the Detroit Public Schools Community District utilizing a one-time allocation of $250,000 to develop a pipeline to skilled trades; and

WHEREAS, Since many viaducts throughout the City remain unlit and dangerous and are a major concern of residents who must use them to navigate their community, City Council recognizes that neighborhood safety and security must remain paramount. Therefore, we support the citywide investment in viaduct lighting and urge the Public Lighting Authority to fulfill its’ promise to work with City Council offices to identify viaducts in need of illumination to address safety issues and enhance walkability in all Detroit neighborhoods.

WHEREAS, To ensure adequate funding of City Council priorities, the Office of Development and Grants shall designate (or hire) staff to establish and facilitate a working relationship with the various offices of City Council, as well as the Body as a whole; and

WHEREAS, Residents, continue to question whether tax abatements are effective, given the continued high level of poverty and high rate of unemployment and underemployment in Detroit. To address residents’ concerns, City Council is requesting the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation and the Civil Rights and Inclusion Office prepare and submit to Council an annual job creation report detailing the jobs, wages and estimated income taxes resulting from business development activities and expenditures.

WHEREAS, To maintain safe and habitable housing conditions for Detroiters, the City Council strongly urges the BSEED to increase enforcement of property maintenance and rental registration ordinances and request HRD invest funding to support the rehabilitation and development of public housing facilities.

WHEREAS, Housing is considered affordable when one’s housing costs is less than 30% of a household’s income. For many Detroiters, the notion of only using 30% of one’s household income for housing expenses has been unobtainable. This is caused by the median income of the average Detroit resident being less than the existing federally established Area Median Income (AMI) guidelines used to determine the housing affordability of housing in Detroit. Therefore, City Council is urging that the Administration utilize Detroit’s median income for affordable housing projects; and
WHEREAS, The various City department and agencies routinely send out notifications regarding the land use studies and changes to those households within 300 radial feet of project; however, because of blight and vacant land the nearest occupied structure is not notified. City Council urges these agencies to increase the notification area to residents within 600 radial feet to better inform the impacted residents; and

WHEREAS, The number of contractors bidding on projects in the city of Detroit will increase in the upcoming years due to the influx of ARPA funds. The continued occurrence of change orders adding additional time and money to contracts can create work delays and add additional cost. Council requests the Administration to develop financial incentives to move contractors to finish projects within the agreed upon period; and

WHEREAS, The City faces environmental challenges that may hinder the health and prosperity of its residents, including environmental pollution, a changing climate and other risks. City Council urges the administration to fund the Office of Sustainability with enough staffing to realize the goals set in the City’s 2019 Sustainability Action Agenda in line with peer cities; and

WHEREAS, It is estimated that up to 75% of all the generated waste can be recycled or repurposed, yet only 4.5% of the city’s solid waste was recycled in 2021. Despite the City’s goal of adding 1,500 multifamily and commercial properties to its recycling program and the reduction of waste sent to landfills, only two businesses have officially opted into the program. City Council urges the Administration to find a stronger mechanism to support multi-unit recycling and to research grant funding for municipalities looking to increase this type of recycling access;

WHEREAS, Downtown workers, residents and visitors continue to rely on the People Mover to commute throughout the downtown area. City Council encourages continuous and committed financial support for the People Mover as an invaluable asset for the city’s transit infrastructure future; and

WHEREAS, To ensure that the salaries of our City’s elected officials’ compensation are adequate, competitive and commiserate with the level of work required to successfully undertake the work of the people, we ask that the Elected Officers Compensation Board meet early in 2023 to ensure that salaries are increased to an adequate level; and

WHEREAS, To support the reduction of greenhouse gasses, the Administration has agreed to use funds within the GSD’s budget to support and implement a benchmarking ordinance that will require large buildings and government entities to report their energy uses to better manage our carbon footprint. The cost to implement the program will be $125,000 in FY 2023 and $250,000 in FY 2024 and beyond, Council fully expects that money within the department’s existing budget will be used to effectuate these results; and

WHEREAS, The US Bureau of Labor statistics projects a growth of more than 500,000 green jobs over the next four years. As all major industries and our economy mobilize toward a more sustainable green transition, the City must prepare its residents. We request that the Administration provide funding for the Detroit Employment Solutions Corporation to expand vocational programming specifically centered around green jobs training; and
WHEREAS, The Duggan Administration has agreed to prioritize and fund improvements at the historic tennis courts at Farwell Park to address the years of deferred maintenance; and

WHEREAS, Our Parks are jewels of our community and serve as a place for both young and old to enjoy. The General Services Department has agreed to shift $500K in funding from an existing capital project to fund Palmer Park capital improvements.

WHEREAS, Continued investment in the City’s recreational centers is essential to enrich the quality of life for all Detroiters. There are still large areas in the city that offer no publicly owned year-round recreational facilities. City Council strongly urges the allocation of funding toward the construction of two new Recreation Centers in Districts 4 and 7 using general fund dollars and ARPA funds in a total amount of 15 million dollars for the FY 22-23 Budget; and

WHEREAS, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History is an important institution in Detroit, the State of Michigan, and this nation. In order to enhance the educational and cultural opportunities, new revenue streams must be identified and secured to help finance needed capital improvements and to upgrade the facility with respect to technology and exhibits. City Council urges the Administration to support a millage for the museum’s operations and add $1,800,000 in ARPA funding to support the museum and its operations for the 2023 budget year; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit Historical Museum is an important institution in Detroit, the State of Michigan, and this nation. In order to enhance the educational and cultural opportunities, new revenue streams must be identified and secured to help finance needed capital improvements and to upgrade the facility with respect to technology and exhibits. City Council urges the Administration to support a millage for the museum’s operations and add $1,200,000 in ARPA funding to support the museum and its operations for the 2023 budget year; and

WHEREAS, To address the unprecedented number of applications for property tax relief, City Council suggests the Board of Review undertake a comprehensive review, assessment of its processes and seek any necessary ordinance changes that might allow for more efficient service delivery of our constituents; and

WHEREAS, In order to successfully appeal a tax assessment, Detroit property owners must go before the Board of Review. However, many of our most vulnerable citizens are not aware of their right to appeal their tax assessment. Council urges the Administration to allocate an annual amount of $350,000 to create an advertising budget for the City of Detroit Board of Review; and

WHEREAS, Free and fair elections are a central component of our democracy. We are requesting additional funds from the State for local clerks for all general and primary elections to ensure the local clerks have sufficient funding to professionally execute their duties during elections; and

WHEREAS, Council urges the Department of Elections to continue to provide and make available additional educational components including but not limited to ballot initiatives, polling places,
and voter outreach designed to increase voter turnout, participation, and registration for elections; and

WHEREAS, Given that the Library has made requests for funding and resources to address their operations and capital needs, City has no voice on the Library Commission that governs the Library. We are advocating for a change in the governance of Detroit Public Library to provide the City appointment authority on the Library Commission; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Council understands that Libraries are important and vital to the vibrancy and future of the City’s neighborhoods. To that point, it is essential that libraries are accessible, with respect to proximity to residents and that state-of-the-art technology is provided there. Therefore, City Council is urging that the Library Commission reopen all the closed branches in Districts 2 and 4 and is also requesting that the Administration and the DPSCD identify and appropriate adequate funding particularly ARPA funding to assist with this goal; and

WHEREAS, For many years the Monteith Library served a great need in the community supporting educational opportunities, preserving our cultural heritage, and providing access to necessary resources for our citizens. The library is in need of significant capital improvements. Council requests the Administration allocate 3.1 million dollars of ARPA funding to rehabilitate the Monteith Branch Library

WHEREAS, Currently, 911 dispatch operators, the first step in the City’s emergency response chain, average well over 1 million calls per year, including calls from Highland Park and Hamtramck. Despite the importance of this work, these employees are compensated well below the state and national averages, which is reflected in the 19.4% vacancy rate. This employee shortage may translate into delayed emergency response times with some callers being put on hold when multiple calls come in simultaneously. The City Council urges the Administration to address this shortage as soon as possible with strategies to improve the attrition rate and the pay disparity, including but not limited to an increase in the base pay and signing bonuses; and

WHEREAS, Prior to 2020, 36TH District Court had a docket of over 30,000 eviction filings for properties located in the City of Detroit. Keeping the status quo as it relates to evictions in Detroit is fiscally and morally irresponsible. At least half of all tenants who are evicted would not be if they had representation during landlord-tenant proceedings. To correct this current imbalance, City Council strongly urges the administration to fully fund a Right to Counsel Ordinance and appropriate $6 million dollars per year for the next three years in ARPA funding for this purpose; and

WHEREAS, The Chief Judge of the 36th District Court indicated that the addition of two judges would allow the court to address the backlog of landlord-tenant cases, which were created during the pandemic. Therefore, we are requesting the addition of 2 additional judges to the Landlord-Tenant bench of the 36th District Court; and

WHEREAS, City Council recognizes the toll violence takes on the City of Detroit and its residents, which includes long lasting emotional and mental effects on victims and their families.
Thus, City Council is urging that the Administration, via the Detroit Police Department, to increase services to victims of violence and identify additional funding as necessary to enhance those services; and

**WHEREAS,** Council recognizes the tremendous job done by the Detroit Police Department personnel. In particular, City Council appreciates the excellent service provided by City Council’s Executive Protection Unit; therefore, we urge both DPD and the Duggan Administration to explore providing a pay increase for the unit to create pay parity with similar executive protection units in other major cities; and

**WHEREAS,** Published reports have found that the poorest 20% of Detroiters face the highest water burden in the country, spending approximately 10.6% of their income on water bills. Average water bills in Detroit are more than $1,000 per year, relatively high compared to other cities. Although Detroit’s rates are not among the highest in the country, they are very high given the city’s low median income and the fact that 37.9% of residents are below the federal poverty level. For those reasons, City Council urges the Administration via the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, to support and implement a Water Affordability Ordinance and fully fund Detroiters right to clean safe drinking water. Additionally, City Council urges the Administration to utilized anticipated State infrastructure funding for a water affordability program in Detroit.

**WHEREAS,** State law gives the mayor authority to appoint the Board of Directors of Detroit Economic Growth Corporation DEGC), Economic Development Corporation (EDC), Downtown Development Authority (DDA) and Downtown-Brownfield Redevelopment Authority (D-BRA) with City Council confirmation. City Council requests the City through its lobbyists, explore amending the current legislation to require half of the board members to be appointed by the mayor and the other half to be appointed by City Council.

**WHEREAS,** A study revealed that across all major art institutions there are only 24 Black curators. Council strongly urges that the DIA work to develop a pilot and expand a youth curator programming with local schools; and

**WHEREAS,** Changing technologies offer better and more sustainable solutions for construction and landscaping. Council urges the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) to add $984,000 to implement a Pervious Concrete and Asphalt Pilot Project for roads and pavement; and

**WHEREAS,** Cryptocurrency is a digital currency designed to work as a medium of exchange. The OCFO has agreed to research the possible creation of a cryptocurrency program that the City may implement to support city issues like shortfalls, social programs, and pensions; and

**WHEREAS,** Technology is rapidly advancing, and the utilization of specialized equipment can make for a more responsive and efficient services to the citizens. Council urges the Administration to authorize $100,000 for the acquisition of a 3-D printer for DDOT replacement parts; and

**WHEREAS,** The City of Detroit and its employees were greatly affected by the bankruptcy, some experiencing life changing consequences which were no fault of their own. Council request
that the three Detroit Council Central Staff Administration employees have their three years seniority restored that was lost due to the bankruptcy; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Charter charges the Auditor General’s Office with auditing City agencies based on an annual risk-based audit plan; however, the lack of staff has made fulfilling this charge difficult. Therefore, Council urges the Administration to allocate $800,000 ARPA funds to hire additionally desperately needed staff; and

WHEREAS, The Office of the Ombudsman faithfully serves the citizens of Detroit and is often the first agency encountered by those seeking assistance within the City’s bureaucracy. Council requests full funding for the Office of the Ombudsman at the requested level, which includes $20,000 for outside legal counsel; and

WHEREAS, Interest in civic matters and actions taken by the government has rapidly increased in recent times. The importance and impact of having a community that is well informed and engaged has never meant more to our society as it does now. Council strongly encourages the office of the City Clerk to continue to provide and make available additional educational services and information relative to Council Sessions, Agenda, and archived information; and

WHEREAS, The City has a population of about 93,716 citizens who are 65 years of age and older. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed a large burden on our aging citizens, who face inflation of historic proportions. Thus, we urge this Administration to provide direct relief payments to citizens of Detroit aged 65 years of age and older; and

WHEREAS, The Office of Disability Affairs has not been funded adequately to reflect the expressed needs of the disabled community, City Council will work to ensure that Office of Disability Affairs is fully funded to the amount of 1.4M; and

WHEREAS, Using the City’s allocation of $5 million in ARPA funds, City Council is requesting the creation of a program that will allow the Community Health Corps to provide assistance to Detroit’s senior citizens facing food and/or housing insecurities; and

WHEREAS, City of Detroit retirees have not been made whole since the City went into bankruptcy in 2013 and have been disproportionately impacted by the effects of COVID-19. American Rescue Plan Act dollars were designed to be used. Therefore, City Council urges the Administration to use ARPA dollars to provide direct relief payments of $1400 to retirees who were negatively impacted by the COVID 19 pandemic. NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council its final deliberations have made a total of $12,776,650 in amendments to the Mayor’s Proposed Executive Budget. Of those allocations, $8,156,000 have come from One-time General Funds sources and $4,620,650 have come from Reoccurring General Fund sources as indicated in Schedule B; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, In an effort to ensure equitable access to City government and the democratic process, City Council urges the Administration to update the Language Access Program policy within the Civil Rights, Inclusion and Opportunity Department to provide interpretation services
in American Sign Language and Spanish during City Council’s Formal Sessions and charter mandated meetings as a baseline service without special request, and eliminate resident requirement of requesting ASL and Spanish interpretation for these public meetings. Council further urges the administration to reduce the number of days required for advance requests of additional language interpretation support for languages known to have significant speaker populations in Detroit (ex: Arabic); BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, Detroit is a global city with a rich history of immigration and immigrant communities with unique needs and contributions, City Council appropriates $100,000 to produce a strategic plan for Immigrant Affairs, and $90,000 to hire an additional staff member dedicated to this office; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, The City of Detroit is one of the few large municipalities that has no policy as it relates to parental leave. Access to parental leave for expecting mothers and fathers is not only critical for comprehensive family planning but it is also important to the health of both parent and child. The City Council allocates $1M to build a comprehensive 6- week parental leave. BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, Council appropriate $70,000 in the Law Department budget for three law students to assist with the FOIA request backlog; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, In order provide better services to the disabled community, $50,000 is being appropriated to Media and Communication Services-Disability Services to increase outreach; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, To better staff the office, The Office of Disability is being allocated $100,000 to hire one FTE; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, An update to the City’s Master Plan, which has not been recodified since 2009, is necessary to provide comprehensive, long-range planning for residents, developers, and City agencies. This will provide the City with the ability to make thoughtful, integrated (as opposed to fragmented) development decisions to ensure every neighborhood in Detroit receives adequate planning services so that public/private investments are aligned with an official government led and sponsored document that lays out the current vision of Detroit’s future. Therefore, the $2 million is being allocated to create a comprehensive, city-wide update to this document; BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED, The Property Tax Over Assessment Program for legacy Detroiter is be seeded with $2 million, and the Administration will utilize $4 million from other permissible sources for the program; BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED, That the City Clerk is directed to provide a copy of resolution to the Financial Review Commission, Mayor Michael Duggan, The Chief Financial Officer, the Finance Director, the Budget Director, Wayne County Executive Warren Evans and all agencies, departments and divisions of the City of Detroit.