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TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division 

DATE: April 19, 2022

RE: Establishment of the Youth and Civic Engagement Task Force

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution calling for the establishment of the Youth and Civic Engagement Task Force.

Attached is the requested resolution. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

ESTABLISHING THE YOUTH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

WHEREAS Youth civic engagement has been defined as working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community. It involves developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make a difference; and

WHEREAS Civic engagement takes many forms including, registering voters, working at polling locations, working with organizations such as AmeriCorps or Senior corps, serving on boards or commissions, volunteering for a political party or candidate, or running for elected office; and

WHEREAS Youth civic engagement activities and programs are critical for empowering young persons to develop their skills and talents; participate in political, economic, and social conversations; and become agents of positive change in their communities; and

WHEREAS Traditionally, young persons from disadvantaged backgrounds have shown low levels of civic knowledge and engagement, due to factors such as, a young person's setting (rural-urban), employment status, social class and wealth, and racial and ethnic background; and

WHEREAS As a result of the Black Lives Matters movement, urban youth became heavily involved, gravitating toward the cause because unlike many issues affecting our society, young persons of color and others could identify with the ideology and purpose of the movement; and

WHEREAS By providing youth greater access to opportunities to participate and be engaged at all levels of governance and policymaking they will be better equipped to fully participate in decisions that are affecting their lives through access to resources, knowledge, and opportunities for engagement; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED The Detroit City Council through Council Member Angela Whitfield-Callaway establishes the Youth and Civic Engagement Task Force to promote youth engagement in civic matters, the political process, and advocacy, in order to build better and stronger communities and assist our youth in becoming actively involved citizens.