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Christopher Gulock, AICP
Derrick Headd


City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

Marcel Hurt, Esq.
Kimani Jeffrey
Edward King
Kelsey Maas
Jamie Murphy
Kim Newby
Analine Powers, Ph.D.
Laurie Anne Sabatini
Rebecca Savage
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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: October 31, 2022

RE: RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

Council member Latisha Johnson requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS.

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

Attachment

BY COUNCIL MEMBER LATISHA JOHNSON

RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT FREE AND FAIR ELECTIONS

WHEREAS, The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the welfare of all Detroit citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, The city of Detroit, the largest and most populous city in Michigan, and its elected officials have a well-documented commitment and history of advocating for social justice and civil liberties, including accessibility to the voting booth for its citizens; and

WHEREAS, The Detroit City Council is committed to partnering and contracting with businesses that also support the principles of social justice and free and fair access to the democratic process of voting for the citizens it serves; and

WHEREAS, Responsible corporate citizenship is an expectation of the businesses located within the borders of the city and/or do business with the City of Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Some businesses located within the borders of the city and/or do business with the City of Detroit have been scrutinized for providing financial support to individuals and causes that restrict voter access to the polls, thereby circumventing the rights of Detroiters and further undermining our democracy; and

WHEREAS, It is especially imperative that businesses that do business with the City of Detroit are committed to advancing and protecting the civil rights and wellbeing of Detroit's citizens, since monies spent with these businesses are taxpayer dollars; and

WHEREAS, A businesses' corporate practices should align with the values and philosophies they publicly promote, and the values of the customers they serve in Detroit, which include denouncing racial inequality and disenfranchisement; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council, on this day, **November 1, 2022**, does hereby call upon the businesses located within the borders of the city and/or do business with the City of Detroit, to exercise responsible corporate citizenship, and to support social justice and free and fair access to the democratic process for the citizens of Detroit; **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council, urges businesses located within the borders of the city and/or do business with the City of Detroit, to immediately align their spending with values and philosophies that support free and fair access to the democratic process for all citizens, **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to Mayor Mike Duggan, the Detroit Regional Chamber, the Michigan Chamber of Commerce, the Michigan Black Chamber of Commerce, and the National Business League, and to post it conspicuously on the City's website.