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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 3, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF THE MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM – MICHIGAN (MABAS-MI)**

Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF THE MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM - MICHIGAN.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

RESOLUTION URGING THE ADOPTION OF THE MUTUAL AID BOX ALARM SYSTEM – MICHIGAN (MABAS-MI)

- WHEREAS,** The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit’s citizens and residents through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and
- WHEREAS,** The Mutual Aid Box Alarm System (MABAS) is a structured, planned mutual aid system for deploying fire, rescue, and emergency medical services personnel, allowing for multiple jurisdictions and/or agencies within a state to respond to emergencies. MABAS connects fire, emergency management services (EMS), and special operations teams in hazardous materials, technical rescue, subsurface ice/water rescue, fire investigations, incident management, urban search and rescue, and station backfill coverage with standby firefighting and EMS resources through mutual aid requests; and
- WHEREAS,** MABAS began in the suburbs of Chicago, Illinois in 1968 and has since grown throughout Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Michigan, and parts of Iowa and Missouri. MABAS is regarded nationally as a model for emergency mutual aid systems. Michigan currently has 31 MABAS divisions with over 500 member fire departments, an Urban Search and Rescue Task Force, Technical Rescue Strike Teams, Hazardous Material Response Teams and an Incident Management Team; and
- WHEREAS,** The Urban Cooperation Act of 1967, 1967 PA 7, MCL 124.501, *et seq.* provides that any political subdivision of Michigan or of another state may enter into interlocal agreements for joint exercise of power, privilege, or authority that agencies share in common and might each exercise separately; and
- WHEREAS,** Each local unit of government that decides to participate in MABAS signs the same agreement, which provides the legal parameters for intrastate and interstate mutual aid such as the reimbursement for assisting agencies, Worker’s Compensation and liability indemnification language that is required of interlocal agreements; and
- WHEREAS,** Local communities often face emergencies that overtax their local fire, EMS, and special operations capacities, but do not warrant a declaration of disaster from the Governor. The MABAS agreement allows for member agencies to efficiently share and utilize resources with other member agencies outside of their jurisdiction with liability protection similar to what is available during a declaration of disaster by the Governor; and
- WHEREAS,** MABAS provides a centralized, statewide communication system, and because each member agency agrees to send pre-determined resources upon request, MABAS allows member agencies to rapidly respond to emergencies with additional resources through a streamlined process; and

WHEREAS, MABAS membership provides invaluable benefits to its members, including improved disaster response capabilities, reduced impact of disasters on communities, strengthened intrastate and interstate emergency mobilization, unification of fire service stakeholders, and enhanced state of emergency preparedness statewide; and

WHEREAS, The MABAS-MI agreement must be approved by a resolution of the governing body of each participating government agency, signed by the chief executive, filed with the Clerk's office in the County of the participating jurisdiction, and filed with the Michigan Secretary of State; and; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council strongly urges Mayor Mike Duggan to sign the MABAS-MI agreement; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to Mayor Mike Duggan.