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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 9, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION TO OFFICIALLY ESTABLISH '313 DAY' IN THE CITY OF DETROIT**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution to officially establish March 13th as '313 Day' in the city of Detroit.

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

**BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD**

**RESOLUTION TO OFFICIALLY ESTABLISH ‘313 DAY’ IN THE CITY OF DETROIT**

- 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 area code, 313 was established in 1947 and serves Wayne County, including Detroit and other municipalities and communities such as the Pointes, Dearborn, Dearborn Heights, Hamtramck, Highland Park, Inkster, Lincoln Park, Redford, and Taylor; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit, founded in 1701, has a long and rich history. By the 20<sup>th</sup> century, Detroit had grown from a fur trading settlement to become the automotive manufacturing capital of the world. We are still known as the Motor City for being the heart of the American automotive industry. As Detroit became a major center for industry and manufacturing, it also became a prominent setting for organizing efforts by labor unions that made significant strides to increase the wages and working conditions for workers both locally and nationally. During World War II, the city’s automobile factories retooled their manufacturing efforts to support the war effort, and Detroit became known as the “Arsenal of Democracy” for its role in the Allied victory; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit played a significant role as part of the Underground Railroad, whose organizers helped tens of thousands of people flee through the city and into Canada to escape slavery. Detroit is also where Martin Luther King, Jr. first delivered his "I Have a Dream" speech, two months before he gave it in Washington D.C. on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial on August 28, 1963. King delivered his Detroit speech in Cobo Hall after the now famous Walk to Freedom, which was a mass march in Detroit during the Civil Rights Movement on June 23, 1963. The march joined by local civil rights giants Horace Sheffield Jr. and Walter P. Ruther, drew an estimated crowd of 125,000 and was known at the time as "the largest civil rights demonstration in the nation's history;" and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit has a rich musical and cultural history, consistently producing notable jazz, blues, soul, rock and roll, hip hop, and electronic music artists. Most notably, Detroit was the home of Motown Records, one of the most successful Black-owned businesses and one of the most significant independent record companies in American history. Detroit is also recognized globally as the birthplace of techno. The city remains home to many unique and historical venues for live theater and music, and regularly hosts artistic events and music festivals such as the Detroit Jazz Festival and the Concert of Colors; and
- WHEREAS,** Additionally, Detroit is the home to Michigan staples such as Ford Field, the home of the Detroit Lions; Comerica Park, the home of the Detroit Tigers; Little Caesars Arena, the home of both the Detroit Red Wings & Detroit Pistons; as well as Eastern Market, the famous Lafayette Coney Island vs. American Coney Island food battle, and the beautiful Belle Isle; and
- WHEREAS,** Detroit has a growing community of locally owned and Black-owned businesses, which represent the unique character and industrious spirit of the city, earning it the popular refrain “there is no place like Detroit;” and
- WHEREAS,** 313 Day originated in 2002 on a radio program called “Club Detroit” on 97.9 WJLB, hosted by Dr. Darrius. Darrius started a discussion about what Detroiters could do to show their city pride on March 13. The radio station continued to promote 313 Day, which has continued to grow and evolve into a day where Detroiters show their pride by doing things like wearing the clothes of their favorite Detroit team, shopping at their favorite local businesses, visiting the city’s parks and museums, or attending an event to support local music artists; and

**WHEREAS,** March 13th is a unique day for Detroiters to celebrate all that symbolizes the 313; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council hereby establishes March 13th as ‘313 Day’ in the city of Detroit, as a day for Council, as well as our fellow Detroiters, to honor the history and culture of Detroit, Michigan’s most well-known city; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the City Clerk and the Mayor.