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TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: February 10, 2023

RE: Reestablishment of the Detroit City Council Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution reestablishing the Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force.

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

A Resolution by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway

Reestablishing the Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force

- WHEREAS** Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States. It is estimated that human trafficking generates billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking; and
- WHEREAS** Preying upon those who are more susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, and lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability, traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation; and
- WHEREAS** The Biden administration in its updated National Action Plan to Combat Human Trafficking, recognized the need to address social and economic conditions that create greater vulnerabilities for marginalized groups by addressing the needs of underserved individuals, families, and communities; and
- WHEREAS** Human and sex trafficking disproportionately impacts persons of color, women, and girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, migrants, and others from historically marginalized and underserved communities. According to the Kirwan Institute for the study of race and ethnicity at Ohio State University, 77% of victims in the United States are people of color; and
- WHEREAS** More than 5,000 human trafficking survivors have been identified across the state of Michigan since 2007, and Michigan currently ranks seventh in the nation in the number of cases reported by the state, according to the Human Rights Trafficking Hotline; and
- WHEREAS** There were four hundred cases in Metro Detroit involving eight hundred victims in the city of Detroit alone in 2019, making Detroit third in the nation in human and sex trafficking behind Atlanta and Miami. And despite the pandemic, human trafficking crimes increased in many communities across the country; and
- WHEREAS** The ability to identify victims and report suspicious encounters can save a life. There is a need for training and education programs, and the creation of partnerships with various community and social services agencies, because an educated public is one of the most effective weapons to assist authorities in the fight against this most heinous crime;
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT
- RESOLVED** In response to the nature and prevalence of human trafficking in the city of Detroit, the Detroit City Council hereby reestablishes the Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force effective immediately, continuing until December 31, 2023, to be chaired by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway; **BE IT, FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** The Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force will explore and develop strategies that protect victims and at-risk populations and ensure survivors receive the service and treatment they need by addressing human and sex trafficking through prevention, partnerships, and prosecution.