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TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: March 31, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION URGING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT SB 136
AND HB 4177 OF 2023**

Council member Scot Benson requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION URGING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT SB 136 AND HB 4177 OF 2023.

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

**RESOLUTION URGING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT SB 136 AND HB
4177 OF 2023**

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, With society facing issues such as poverty, inequality, intolerance and discrimination, museums can help us understand, debate, and challenge these concerns. Museums can increase our sense of wellbeing, help us feel proud of where we have come from, can inspire, challenge and stimulate us, and make us feel healthier; and

WHEREAS, According to the Museums Association, museums can also enhance everyone's life chances by breaking down barriers to access and inclusion. Museums are doing this through active public participation, engaging with diverse communities, and sharing collections and knowledge in ways that are transforming lives; and

WHEREAS, In Detroit, the Detroit Historical Society raises funds, recruits volunteers, and ensures that the Detroit Historical Museum, the Dossin Great Lakes Museum and Historic Fort Wayne (which opened as a City-owned and operated historical attraction in the 1970s) maintains a vibrant presence in Detroit's cultural landscape; and

WHEREAS, Also in the city, for over half a century, the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History has opened its doors to provide its guests to exhibit the rich cultural legacy of African Americans. The 125,000 square foot museum, named for its founder Charles Wright, includes both permanent and rotating exhibits, as well as a library and theater, tells the story of the African American experience from the beginning of time to the presidency of Barack Obama and beyond; and

WHEREAS, However, due to limited funding, the future viability of these venerable institutions is at risk. There is a need to identify an additional funding source for these institutions. Ideally, two pending pieces of State legislation if passed, should generate a new source of funding for the aforementioned historical institutions; and

WHEREAS, In March of this year, the Michigan State Senate and House introduced Senate Bill (SB) 136 and House Bill (HB) 4177 OF 2023 respectively. As proposed, these bills would provide for the creation of a history museum authority and for the powers and duties of said authority. Once approved, the bills would authorize the levy and collection of a property tax by a history museum authority; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council strongly urges that the Michigan legislature, and the Governor, support SB 136 of 2023 and HB 4177 of 2023, in order to provide additional support for Detroit's historical museums; **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, Copies of this resolution shall be provided to the Detroit delegation of both the Michigan Senate and House, Governor Gretchen Witmer, Mayor Mike Duggan, GCSI the City of Detroit's lobbying firm in Lansing, as well as media and residents.