



City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

MARY SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT
DISTRICT 5

MEMORANDUM

TO: David Whitaker, Director, Legislative Policy Division

THROUGH: Council Member Latisha Johnson, Chair, Internal Operations Standing Committee

FROM: Council President Mary Sheffield

DATE: March 6, 2023

RE: **Requesting LPD to draft resolution urging the State of Michigan to provide funding for Right to Counsel**

In May of 2022, City Council unanimously passed the Right to Counsel Ordinance. This ordinance, which I sponsored, gives access to full legal representation to Detroiters facing eviction and/or housing loss. The administration has allocated \$2 million this fiscal year to fund the ordinance, but the needs of Detroit residents far outweigh that amount. We have the power and responsibility to defend and help our most vulnerable residents, and we must pursue ALL options to keep people in their homes. I am requesting that the Legislative Policy Division drafts a resolution for the State of Michigan to locate a revenue stream to fund Right to Counsel here in Detroit.

Thank you in advance for drafting this resolution. If you have any questions, please contact Yvonne Ragland from my office at yvonne.ragland@detroitmi.gov.

cc: Honorable Colleagues