

**A RESOLUTION BY
DETROIT CITY COUNCIL MEMBER
JAMES E. TATE JR. AND ANDRE L. SPIVEY**

**RESOLUTION CREATING THE CITY COUNCIL TASK FORCE ON BLACK
MALE ENGAGEMENT**

WHEREAS It is clear that African Americans bear a unique historical scar that has harshly impacted generations of individuals in the United States. Across the country, a growing number of African American men face significant socioeconomic challenges that threaten the stability of their families and their neighborhoods. Empirical evidence and statistical data consistently reveal that African American men have higher rates of incarceration/recidivism, drug/alcohol use, institutionalization, premature death (violence and illness related) as well as poverty. Many institutional as well as self-induced factors contribute to the generational challenges these same men encounter; **and**

WHEREAS A great number of African American men have overcome the shared challenges that plague inner cities across the U.S. and validate that an individual's beginning point in life does not determine their future. These men are the fathers, uncles and neighbors that are working to repair the damage that the scourge of apathy that has besieged upon too many communities in America. Concerned individuals working collaboratively to pool their resources and talents has been proven to be the best approach to solve major issues; **and**

WHEREAS The United States House of Representatives established "Congressional Caucus on Black Men and Boys" in 2013 to address the crisis among African American men on a national level. Unfortunately, the impact of any positive solution based conversation from that entity has not been felt by the population of the city of Detroit. The need for a locally based task force whose sole purpose is to improve the trajectory for African American males in Detroit is evident. Non-action regarding this matter will only allow the current situation to worsen, thus continuing to hamper the quality of life for city residents; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council hereby creates the Task Force on Black Male Engagement until December 31, 2014. The Task Force on Black Male Engagement will work diligently with community stakeholders to deliberate on the socioeconomic challenges facing African youth and men residing in the city, create a strategic plan of action to provide strong leadership and mentoring where needed; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED The many areas of concern for the Task Force on Black Male Engagement will include cultural awareness, community service, family responsibility, health/disease prevention, character building, career preparation, education advancement, and financial literacy; and **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED That the Task Force on Black Male Engagement will be chaired jointly by Council Members James E. Tate, Jr. and Andre L. Spivey; and **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED That the Task Force on Black Male Engagement meetings are open to the public; with dates, times and locations to be noticed by the Office of the City Clerk.