

## **RESOLUTION URGING A REVIEW OF FUNERAL HOME PROCESS STATEWIDE**

**BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT JONES**

**WHEREAS,** The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit's citizens; and

**WHEREAS,** On October 12, 2018, based on an anonymous tip, State inspectors and the Detroit police found eleven infant corpses hidden in the ceiling of Cantrell Funeral Home, after the Michigan Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) followed up on a complaint; and

**WHEREAS,** Subsequent to this gruesome discovery, one week later, the Detroit Police and inspectors from LARA discovered the remains of 63 infant bodies, some of whom had been deceased since 2015, at Perry Funeral Home in Detroit. Sadly, 37 fetuses of infants were found in three unrefrigerated boxes, while an additional 26 were found in a freezer; and

**WHEREAS,** This shocking event highlights the need for a greater level of scrutiny over the processes for disposal of human remains, including fetuses, and points to a possible systemic problem, particularly with respect to final arrangements following the premature loss of fetuses and infants. News reports raise claims of impropriety on several levels, including local hospitals, research facilities, and funeral homes; and

**WHEREAS,** The Michigan Compiled Laws, including the Public Health Code, control the disposition of human remains, and it is appropriate that DPD, the FBI, the Michigan State Police, the Wayne County prosecutor, the Michigan Attorney General's Office, LARA, the state licensing authority LARA, are cooperating to further investigate the problem, as reported in the news media; and

**WHEREAS,** That these recently revealed horrific instances at the two funeral homes, have shown that there may be a systemic issue that requires an advanced level of monitoring. However, LARA the agency charged with monitoring this industry, needs sufficient staff in place to effectively provide this monitoring; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Council strongly urges the Mayor to request that these aforementioned law enforcement agencies, as well as the state licensing authority, LARA, continue to work cooperatively to determine the most appropriate and effective manner in which to investigate relevant disposition processes in all funeral homes both in the city of Detroit and statewide, to reevaluate inspection processes going forward, and to insure that all human remains are treated with dignity and respect and that no additional families suffer the trauma experienced by the complainants; **AND BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED** That the Council also urges the Mayor to request that the Governor initiate efforts to increase the monitoring staff at LARA; **AND BE IT FINALY**

**RESOLVED** That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to Mayor Mike Duggan and Governor Rick Snyder.