

BY COUNCIL MEMBER AYERS, JOINED BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT JONES:

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF STRIKING HOTEL WORKERS AT
WESTIN BOOK CADILLAC**

WHEREAS, Thousands of Marriott hotel workers represented by the UNITE HERE union are on strike in cities across the United States, including Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Workers at the Marriott-operated Westin Book Cadillac in Detroit voted to authorize a strike in September 2018 and have been on strike since the early morning of October 7th, 2018; and

WHEREAS, Reportedly, the Westin Book Cadillac is one of the most profitable hotels in the city of Detroit, and Marriott is among the largest and wealthiest hotel companies, having a worldwide presence; and

WHEREAS, Many Westin Book Cadillac employees have worked at the hotel since its much anticipated opening in 2008, after a massive \$200 million renovation of the classic hotel building, which had been vacant for more than twenty years; and

WHEREAS, The City and its citizens, and businesses alike suffered and struggled through the long decade of recession since the opening of the hotel. Hotel employees sacrificed, as did most Detroiters, enduring wage freezes and forgoing wage increases. With the recent resurgence in the economy generally and particularly the phenomenal growth in downtown Detroit, the Westin Book Cadillac has profited from this growth, yet its employees have not shared in the recovery ~~as its owners have, with some workers indicating they have only had a 70-cent pay raise over the~~ past decade; and

WHEREAS, Westin Book Cadillac workers indicate they average two dollars less per hour in wages than their counterparts doing the same jobs at the Marriott's Renaissance Center hotel, a mere six blocks away, and therefore, at a minimum, seek parity with their sister facility -- a "downtown standard" pay rate. The striking workers demand a livable wage sufficient to support themselves and their families with one job; and

WHEREAS, For most of the past century, Detroit has been regarded by many as the labor movement's capital city, making it all the more troubling when labor and management cannot reach agreement on the most basic fair wage issues – issues that raise the standard of living of our citizens, that benefit our community as a whole, and ultimately, the industry they serve.
NOW THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council supports the members of UNITE HERE in their struggle for the creation of a "downtown standard", that is, at the very least, wage parity with employees

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at the Marriott Renaissance Center hotel, and urges management to redouble its efforts to reach an equitable agreement with the striking workers, recognizing that economic fairness for the workers benefits the entire community including the hotel as their employer and a member of the local community. **AND BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That this resolution be forwarded to the leadership of Local 24 of UNITE HERE, the management of the Westin Book Cadillac Hotel, and Mayor Mike Duggan.

October 22, 2018