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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: April 1, 2019

RE: **RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH
WEEK DETROIT CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE MARY
SHEFFIELD**

Council President Pro-Tem Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution in support of The Black Maternal Health Week April 11th-17th, 2019. Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

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

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE MARY SHEFFIELD

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK MATERNAL HEALTH WEEK

WHEREAS, In April of 2018, the Black Mamas Matter Alliance (BMMA) launched its first annual Black Maternal Health Week with the support of U.S. House of Representative Alma S. Adams (D) and Senator Kamala Harris (D), which takes place during National Minority Health Month. This April 11th-17th will be the second year BMMA has sponsored a week of activism and awareness regarding the health and reproductive rights of black mothers; and

WHEREAS, According to BMMA's website, their ultimate goal is to create "a world where black mothers have the rights, respect, and resources to thrive before, during, and after pregnancy." This is a discussion that is all too often missing from the national narrative; and

WHEREAS, Statistically speaking, the maternal health disparity between black mothers and women of other races are staggering. Due to limited resources and/or racial biases, limited access to adequate maternal care has resulted in the disproportionate death rate of black mothers, ultimately, causing the United States to have the highest maternal mortality rate among affluent countries. Black women are three times more likely to die during child birth, two times as likely to suffer life-threatening pregnancy complications, and are 49% more likely than white women to deliver prematurely; regardless of socio-economic status; and

WHEREAS, The Black Maternal Health Week want to promote steps designed to remedy these concerns by:

- Exploring, introducing and advancing policy to increase access to maternal care facilities for black mothers, in order to improve maternal health outcomes.
- Research and inform the public about policy agendas and innovative strategies that allows black women to actively participate in policy decisions that impact their lives.
- Redirect and reframe the conversation on black maternal health and amplify the voices and concerns of black mothers.
- Shifting the cultural mind-set that leads to inadequate maternal care.
- Advocacy for fair distribution of resources, access to high quality care, respectful care and preventing discrimination for black mothers who are most vulnerable.
- Partnering with healthcare-related organizations to strengthen the movement; and

WHEREAS, Detroit City Council is dedicated to instituting programs, services and activities that addresses the needs of our community. Consequently, City Council understands the importance of raising awareness and addressing the racial disparities of maternal health outcomes of black women.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, Detroit City council recognizes and celebrates the Black Mamas Maternal Alliance's *Black Maternal Health Week* from April 11-17, 2019.