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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David D. Whitaker
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: June 26, 2019

RE: **Resolution commemorating 100 years of Women's Right to Vote**

On June 20, 2019, the Honorable Council President Pro Tempore Mary Sheffield requested the Legislative Policy Division to draft a resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of Women's Right to Vote.

The draft resolution is attached for your review.

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE MARY SHEFFIELD

RESOLUTION COMMEMORATING 100 YEARS OF WOMEN'S RIGHT TO VOTE

WHEREAS, The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit's citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, Voting and access to the ballot are fundamental to a thriving, well-functioning democracy; and

WHEREAS, In 1918 Michigan's voters approved a state constitutional amendment by nearly 55 percent of the vote, extending suffrage to Michigan women, thereby granting them the right to vote in statewide political elections. The National Suffrage Amendment, the 19th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, was passed by Congress on June 5, 1919. Michigan was the second state to ratify the amendment on June 10, 1919, under Gov. Albert Sleeper; and

WHEREAS, June 10, 2019 marks the 100th year anniversary of women gaining the right to vote. The journey for suffrage had reached every corner of our nation and was a significant milestone in our nation's history. While all adult citizens have the right to vote, this franchise is bestowed upon our democratic government the obligation to ensure that all aspects of the voting process are fair, secure, and accurate; and

WHEREAS, The 100th anniversary should not welcome the broad narrative for "women in America." Rather, it should bridge the start of many discussions on the historic and spiritual importance of multicultural American suffragists; and

WHEREAS, In many ways the women seated on our City Council reflects the spirit of momentum and purpose that sprung directly from this 100 year old accomplishment; and **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council commemorates the 100th anniversary of Women's Right to Vote.