

**BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT BRENDA JONES**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 4053**

**WHEREAS**, On January 16, 2019, Michigan House Representative Steve Marino (R), introduced House Bill 4053, which is now in the House Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee awaiting deliberation; and

**WHEREAS**, In 2013 the Disabled Veterans Exemption statutory amendment (MCL 211.7b) was enacted by the entire legislature to give homestead property tax exemptions for fully disabled veterans who were honorably discharged from the armed forces or their surviving spouse if they have not remarried. Unfortunately, however, spouses of soldiers who were killed while in combat were inadvertently excluded from this benefit, because their spouse was not technically a veteran at the time of death; and

**WHEREAS**, House Bill 4053, addresses this loophole in state law and bridges this unintentional gap, by expanding the property tax exemption to include the surviving spouse of service members who were killed during active duty, as long as the spouse remains unmarried; and

**WHEREAS**, The Detroit City Council firmly believes that any effort that honors our veterans and their families should be supported, particularly when efforts are made for those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for the safety and freedoms that all citizens of the United States of America enjoy. Disabled veterans, as well as their spouses need assistance to provide a comfortable transition back into civilian life. This amendment will enhance this transition; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT.**

**RESOLVED**, The Detroit City Council enthusiastically supports and recommends passage of **House Bill 4053**, in order to provide a homestead property tax exemption to the spouses of fallen soldiers who died in combat or from service connected injuries; **BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED**, The Detroit City Clerk is directed to send copies of the resolution to the House Local Government and Municipal Finance Committee, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, the Detroit delegation in the State House, and the Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs.