

## **Resolution Supporting safe workplace and firearms ban at Michigan Capitol**

**WHEREAS** the City of Detroit Board of Police Commissioners has approved resolutions for public safety measures that protect schools, worship houses, offices, shopping malls, and other gathering places. Among other steps, The Board supports a ban on military-like weapons of mass assault and terrorism in public arenas; and

**WHEREAS** on Thursday, April 30, 2020 at the Michigan Capitol, people gathered to protest public health protections against a deadly coronavirus outbreak. While many observed time-honored Constitutional protections of free speech and public protest, a dangerous part included people dressed in combat gear and armed with assault weapons, with some showing hostile manners with police and others. Another untenable aspect was the display of swastikas and confederate flags, well-known symbols of ethnic and racial hatred and oppression; and

**WHEREAS** the mass assault weapons and hate symbols created clear dangers that made some legislators wear bulletproof vests, secure armed escorts, and take other drastic steps to protect their lives and safely perform their jobs at the Capitol. The legislative building is also a national landmark that draws thousands of grade school students, educators, and other tourists. Governor Gretchen Whitmer recently said, “No one should be intimidated by someone who’s bringing in an assault rifle into their workplace.” The Board agrees and further believes no one should endure intimidating hate symbols in their workplace and that Capitol visitors deserve protections from the same threats that make elected and other workers fearful for their lives; and

**WHEREAS** the State Capitol Commission oversees the building and exercises its powers by setting and imposing various safety rules and procedures, including recent building closures and other steps against the coronavirus threat. A recent Attorney General opinion stated the Commission’s powers include authority to ban firearms. A Capitol Commission meeting Monday, May 11, 2020 ended with a call for additional study; therefore be it

**Resolved,** that the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners supports a firearms ban at the Capitol. Our Board urges prompt action by the State Capitol Commission on its rules or by the Michigan Legislature and the Governor on state law to ban firearms at the Capitol and ensure safety for employees and visitors to the building and to protect them from intimidation and dangers in the course and performance of their work.