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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: October 16, 2020

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DDOT DRIVER SAFETY**

Detroit City Council President Brenda requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DDOT DRIVER SAFETY.

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

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

RESOLUTION BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT JONES

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF DDOT DRIVER SAFETY

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

WHEREAS, The current COVID-19 pandemic is the defining global health crisis of our time and one of the greatest challenges the city of Detroit, the state of Michigan, the USA and the modern world has ever faced. Since its emergence in Asia late last year, the virus has spread to almost every continent. But the pandemic is much more than a health crisis, it's also an unprecedented socio-economic crisis; and

WHEREAS, Unfortunately, the events surrounding a recent incident on a City of Detroit DDOT bus between a driver and a citizen over the wearing of a mask, ultimately led to a DDOT drivers walk out, in opposition to the discipline issued to the involved driver on Friday October 2nd; and

WHEREAS, The incident brought attention to the fact that even before the heightened tensions of COVID-19, many of the City's DDOT drivers have encountered mistreatment and threats from riders; and

WHEREAS, To its credit, according to the City's website, the Administration reached an agreement with the drivers, which led to the drivers returning to work on Monday October 5th; and

WHEREAS, It is the recommendation of the Detroit City Council that as far as grant and other funds are available, that the City of Detroit consider implementing the following in order to provide a safer environment for the drivers:

- Permanent barriers between drivers and passengers
- Additional police presence on the busses
- Clear lines of distance, marked on each bus between passengers and drivers
- A daily supply of masks for bus passengers (distributed one at a time)
- Easy to read illustrated signage on the busses, which indicates the rules and the level of security on the busses
- Greenlight quality cameras on all busses; and

WHEREAS, That the Detroit City Council urges that the Administration to consider implementing its suggestions, given Council's respect and admiration for its DDOT drivers and its commitment to their safety. As a matter of fact, we consider the safety of all City workers paramount and they all should be adequately supported, trained and protected; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded the Mayor and the Directors of DDOT and the City's Human Resources Department.