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TO: The Public Health and Safety Committee

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: November 18, 2020

RE: **Resolution in support of Senate Bill 234**

Council President Jones requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to draft a resolution in support of Michigan Senate Bill 234, which if passed, it would allow a law enforcement agency that entered into a loan forgiveness agreement to collect the costs of law enforcement training if an employee voluntarily left employment with the agency within five years of receiving certification.

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

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT JONES

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 234

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, For years, the community and City officials have complained that Detroit's police shortage has worsened by the flight of recruits who receive free training through the City's police academy, only to leave for a suburban police force upon graduation, meaning the City invests in the officer training, but sees virtually no return; and

WHEREAS, According to the police union, nearly half of the City's officers, about 800, have less the five years' experience. City records show that in recent years, 19 percent of new recruits have left the Detroit Police Department within three years of graduating from the City's police academy; and

WHEREAS, In recognizing the imbalance, Council has requested that its lawyers draft an ordinance to address this issue, however, it was determined that State law had to change, as the current State law prohibits employers from requiring reimbursement for training that is necessary as a condition to do a job without prior written consent; and

WHEREAS, If passed, Senate Bill 234, sponsored by State Senator Sylvia Santana, D-Detroit, would amend section 8 of 1978 PA 390, the Payment of Wages and Fringe Benefits Act (MCL 408.478), to allow a law enforcement agency under a signed loan forgiveness agreement, entered into on or after the effective date of the amendatory act, which would mandate newly trained police officers to repay 100 percent of their academy pay if they leave within one year; 75 percent within two years; 50 percent within three years; 25 percent within four years and 10 percent within five years; and

WHEREAS, That the Detroit City Council advocates for the efficient use of taxpayer's dollars, therefore expresses its support for Senate Bill 234. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council is hereby calling for the Michigan legislature to approve Senate Bill 234. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the City of Detroit's Lansing Lobbyist, the Detroit delegation in the State Senate and State House, State Senate Committee on Judiciary and Public Safety, Mayor Mike Duggan and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.