

David Whitaker, Esq.  
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Irvin Corley, Jr.  
Executive Policy Manager

Marcell R. Todd, Jr.  
Senior City Planner

Janese Chapman  
Deputy Director

John Alexander  
LaKisha Barclift, Esq.  
Nur Barre  
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP  
Elizabeth Cabot, Esq.  
Tasha Cowan  
George Etheridge


# City of Detroit

## CITY COUNCIL

LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION  
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center  
Detroit, Michigan 48226  
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

Christopher Gulock, AICP  
Derrick Headd  
Marcel Hurt, Esq.  
Kimani Jeffrey  
Anne Marie Langan  
Jamie Murphy  
Kim Newby  
Analine Powers, Ph.D.  
Jennifer Reinhardt  
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David Teeter  
Theresa Thomas  
Kathryn L. Underwood, MUP  
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: March 23, 2021

RE: **RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH MALCOLM X DAY OF OBSERVATION**

Council Member Scott Benson requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH MALCOLM X DAY OF OBSERVATION

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

**COUNCIL MEMBER SCOTT BENSON**

**RESOLUTION TO DECLARE MALCOM X DAY OF OBSERVATION**

**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,** Malcolm X, later known as El-Hajj Malik El-Shabazz was an African American human rights activist and scholar who was internationally known for presenting a compelling case against systemic racism, and for the rights of African Americans and marginalized people; and

**WHEREAS,** Malcolm X was born on May 19, 1925 in Omaha, Nebraska, to Earl and Louise Helen Little, who were active members of the Universal Negro Improvement Association led by Marcus Garvey. As a result of his families activism, Malcom X suffered childhood trauma that included threats on his father’s life and his father’s death under suspicious circumstances in 1931; and

**WHEREAS,** While serving a six-year prison sentence, Malcolm X joined the Nation of Islam (founded in Detroit, MI in 1932). In 1948, after he was paroled from prison, Malcolm X was selected as assistant minister at Temple No. 1 in Detroit, MI (now Historic Masjid Wali Muhammad), and was widely regarded for his ability to deliver scathing criticism of systemic racism in America as the National Spokesman for the National of Islam; and

**WHEREAS,** Malcom X eventually transitioned from the Nation of Islam, to Islamic orthodoxy and founded the Muslim Mosque, Inc., and the Organization of Afro-American Unity. Through his efforts to empower Black Americans and fight systemic racism, Malcom X met with world leaders and lectured abroad about the black experience in America; and

**WHEREAS,** Under heavy surveillance from federal and local law enforcement and his family being harassed, Malcom X persisted to deliver his scathing critique of racial inequality in America; and

**WHEREAS,** Malcom X triumphed as a historic icon and led a strict life of obedience to the law and high moral standard, but was eventually assassinated on February 21, 1965, almost three months from his 40th birthday; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council hereby declare the third Friday in the month of May in this year and every year thereafter, as “Malcolm X Day of Observation,” through activities and events to advocate for racial equity, human rights, enfranchisement, economic independence of marginalized people and to celebrate the life and legacy of Malcolm X; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be forward to the Office of the Detroit City Clerk and Mayor Mike Duggan.