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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: April 6, 2021

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 30**

Council Member Raquel Castaneda Lopez requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution in support of Senate Resolution No. 30.

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

BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAQUEL CASTANEDA LOPEZ

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF MICHIGAN SENATE RESOLUTION No. 30

- 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,** Since January 2020, many Asian Americans have reported suffering racial slurs, wrongful workplace termination, being spat on, physical violence and extreme physical distancing, as the media and government officials have branded and blamed Asians for the spread of COVID-19. The FBI projects that as COVID-19 grows, hate crimes against Asian Americans will more than likely increase as well; and
- WHEREAS,** Due to physical and social isolation, people increasingly rely on social media platforms, such as Facebook, Twitter or Instagram, etc., in order to facilitate human interactions and keep themselves up to date with information; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2019, a group of researchers from NYU concluded in their study, “Race, ethnicity and national origin-based discrimination in social media and hate crimes across 100 U.S. cities,” that the proportion of discrimination on social media is strongly related to the number of hate crimes across 100 cities in the U.S. For instance, Mr. Trump's presidential campaign relied heavily on the Twitter social media platform and his tweets about Islam-related topics have been correlated with hate crimes toward Muslims; and
- WHEREAS,** Damaging attitudes and prejudice toward Asian Americans are trending upwards, as more COVID-19 cases and deaths are confirmed in the U.S.; and
- WHEREAS,** Michigan Senate Resolution No. 30, explicitly calls for the condemnation of hate crimes, hateful rhetoric, and acts against Asian Americans, to encourage Michiganders to report hate crimes to the office of Michigan Attorney General and acts of discrimination to the Michigan Department of Civil Rights; and
- WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Council recognizes and condemns the systemic hate and discrimination against all people of color. However, the present attacks on the Asian American community are particular concerning, as it represents the sometimes-underreported harassment of Asian Americans. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council urges the Michigan Legislature to adopt Senate Resolution No. 30. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Detroit delegation in the State Senate and State House, State Senator Stephanie Chang, Mayor Mike Duggan and Governor Gretchen Whitmer.