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Executive Policy Manager
Marcell R. Todd, Jr.
Director, City Planning Commission
Janese Chapman
Director, Historic Designation
Advisory Board

John Alexander
Megha Bamola
LaKisha Barclift, Esq.
Nur Barre
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., AICP
Elizabeth Cabot, Esq.
Christopher Gulock, AICP

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

Derrick Headd
Marcel Hurt, Esq.
Kimani Jeffrey
Anne Marie Langan
Jamie Murphy
Kim Newby
Analine Powers, Ph.D.
Rebecca Savage
Ryan Schumaker
Sabrina Shockley
Thomas Stephens, Esq.
David Teeter
Theresa Thomas
Kathryn Lynch Underwood, MUP
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS
FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff
DATE: March 24, 2022
RE: **RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE WAYNE COUNTY
TREASURER OFFICE EXTEND THE 2021 MORATORIUM ON
PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURES OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES
INTO 2022**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER’S OFFICE EXTEND THE 2021 MORATORIUM ON PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURES OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES INTO 2022.

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

Attachment

BY PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD

RESOLUTION REQUESTING THAT THE WAYNE COUNTY TREASURER'S OFFICE EXTEND THE 2021 MORATORIUM ON PROPERTY TAX FORECLOSURES OF OWNER-OCCUPIED HOMES INTO 2022

WHEREAS, International, national, state and local health and governmental authorities continue to respond to an outbreak of respiratory disease caused by a novel coronavirus known as COVID-19; and

WHEREAS, As of March 10, 2022, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (“MDHHS”) has updated its [COVID-19 Isolation & Quarantine guidance](#)¹ for Michigan residents, thereby relaxing some of its established protocols to control the epidemic. However, Michiganders are still impacted from its lingering effects; and

WHEREAS, On March 16, 2020, Wayne County Treasurer Eric Sabree announced that Wayne County would not foreclose on any homes in 2020 in light of the pandemic, enabling around 13,800 Wayne County residents to remain in their homes, by extending the redemption period on foreclosures to March 31, 2022. According to the Detroit News, this is a rare reprieve for a county that foreclosed on 145,458 parcels between 2005 and 2017, [an analysis by Detroit data firm Regrid found](#), about a third of all property in the city; and

WHEREAS, Without another extension, Wayne County would continue to foreclose on homes in 2022 despite the ongoing global pandemic. Recognizing the ongoing impact of COVID-19 and an overwhelming demand for payment plans and appointments, the Wayne County Treasurer extended the deadline for payment plan enrollment as well as foreclosure redemption until March 30, 2022. Based on news accounts, this will likely result in 1,200 to 1,500 occupied homes being foreclosed by Wayne County; and

WHEREAS, Since 2009, Wayne County has foreclosed on 1 in 3 Detroit homes for non-payment of property taxes.

WHEREAS, Resuming tax foreclosures auction sales on owner occupied homes in the midst of a global pandemic will displace many vulnerable families.

WHEREAS, While some low-income property owners can pursue assistance from the State through the Michigan Homeowner Assistance Fund (MIHAF) and through the County with the Poverty Tax Exemption (PTE) to extinguish their tax burden through the Pay As You Stay (PAYS) program, many over assessed owners of low valued homes do not qualify for these programs and will be subject to foreclosure this year. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

¹ Hyperlinks are included for accessibility and verification purposes

RESOLVED, While the pandemic continues, the Detroit City Council requests that the Wayne County Treasurer Office extends the moratorium on property tax foreclosures of owner-occupied homes in the City of Detroit in 2022; **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be forwarded to the Wayne County Treasurer's Office, Wayne County Assessment and Equalization Division, Wayne County Commission, Detroit Delegation in the Michigan Legislature, the Michigan State House Committee on Tax Policy, the Michigan State Senate Committee on Finance, the Mayor's Office and the Assessor's Office.