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City of Detroit

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TO: Honorable City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: November 7, 2022

RE: Establishment of the Innovation Technology Task Force

City Council Member Coleman A. Young, II has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution calling for the establishment of the Innovation Technology Task Force.

Attached is the requested resolution. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER COLEMAN A. YOUNG, II

ESTABLISHING THE INNOVATION TECHNOLOGY TASK FORCE

WHEREAS Innovations driven by ideas and technology are critical to our existence, providing breakthroughs in business and society, and

WHEREAS The introduction of new processes, ideas, services, and products with the goal of making an existing process more efficient or solving a current problem, fuels the ongoing quest for something new and continuous progress, and

WHEREAS Technological advancements in the areas of mobility, customer service, healthcare, manufacturing, and other industries, contribute to overall economic growth, and

WHEREAS The City of Detroit has long been recognized as a global leader in innovation and technology. From the invention of the assembly line in 1913, streamlining the process of assembling an automobile from approximately 12 hours to 90 minutes, revolutionizing not only the auto industry, but manufacturing as a whole. To Motown, which not only captured the world with its innovative signature sound, but constantly and consistently pushed forward the development of new technologies in the recording industry, and

WHEREAS Tech Town has helped over two thousand startup businesses grow by connecting them with funding and other resources supporting as many as 450 businesses every year, and

WHEREAS The addition of the Detroit Center for Innovation, a research and education center seeded by a donation from Stephen Ross, scheduled to break ground in 2023; and the Detroit Mobility Innovation Hub, a partnership between Ford Motor Company and Google, will be vital components for Detroit to increase its technological footprint, and

WHEREAS Non-Whites have a far more challenging time obtaining venture capital. Corporations and government must support the urban community's innovation potential, by increasing employment opportunities, supporting procurement contract opportunities, offering, and increasing government backed inclusive innovation funding, and

WHEREAS Detroit's emergence from bankruptcy, has spurred an influx of new energy and ideas that have transformed the city with new strategies and business models, turning it into a thriving hub of innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly in the tech sector. Detroit is now uniquely positioned to become a leading American innovation and technology hub joining cities like San Diego, Austin, and Charlotte, **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED The Detroit City Council recognizes our impressive network of resources including talent, mentors, research institutions for product development, and funding, situates Detroit in the promising position to become a nationally recognized startup destination, **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED

The Detroit City Council through Council Member Coleman A. Young, II establishes the Innovation Technology Task Force to provide recommendations and advise the Council on policies, legislative initiatives, funding opportunities, and practices related to innovation and technology that create employment opportunities, increase efficiencies, and enhance services to the citizens of Detroit.