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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: March 1, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION URGING STATE ACTION ON GUNS**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION URGING STATE ACTION ON GUNS, calling on the Michigan State Legislature to enact the 11 common-sense gun laws recently introduced in the state house and senate.

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

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD

RESOLUTION URGING STATE ACTION ON GUNS

- WHEREAS,** In the United States of America, there are roughly 40,000 gun deaths each year; and
- WHEREAS,** According to the Centers for Disease Prevention and Control’s (CDC) latest comprehensive report on gun mortality, gun violence and gun deaths have been rising significantly since around 2015. Shockingly, in 2019 firearm-related injuries became the number one cause of death for children, teens, and young adults below age 25; and
- WHEREAS,** In 2020, nearly 80 percent of homicides and 53 percent of suicides in the US were by firearm; and
- WHEREAS,** Gun violence disproportionately impacts the Black community. In 2020, more than half of all firearm homicide victims (53 percent) were Black males and more than half of all Black teens who died (52 percent) were killed by gun violence; and
- WHEREAS,** While Black citizens make up 15 percent of Michigan’s population, they suffer 79 percent of gun homicides; and
- WHEREAS,** In Detroit alone, there were 309 homicides and 1,065 nonfatal shootings in 2021 according to the Detroit Police Department; and
- WHEREAS,** Studies show that women suffering from domestic abuse are five times more likely to be killed by their male partner if their partner has access to a firearm; and
- WHEREAS,** In the wake of the highly publicized mass shootings at Oxford High School in 2021 and Michigan State University in 2023, legislators in the Michigan Senate have introduced eleven common-sense gun laws as an effort to protect Michigan citizens from gun violence; and
- WHEREAS,** Broadly, the bills introduced in the Michigan Senate focus on requiring a license for any purchase of a firearm, universal background checks including private sales of firearms, secure storage laws to keep firearms away from children and teens, and “red flag” laws allowing courts to remove firearms from individuals who pose a threat to themselves or others; and
- WHEREAS,** CDC data shows that states with strong gun violence prevention policies consistently had gun death rates that were significantly lower than the national average; and
- WHEREAS,** Everytown for Gun Safety, a national nonprofit that conducts research and promotes policies to eliminate gun violence, classifies Michigan’s gun laws as “Weak,” finding that the state has only enacted 12 of the 50 most important gun safety policies;
- WHEREAS,** All students deserve schools and communities that are safe, supportive, and free from gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Safe storage measures that require firearms to be securely stored in homes with children have been proven to significantly reduce youth firearm deaths; and

WHEREAS, Nineteen states and Washington D.C. have enacted red flag laws, which have proven to be effective, especially in preventing gun suicide; and

WHEREAS, Continued injury and death from gun violence is due, in substantial part, to the lack of political action to enact sensible gun control policies that have proven to be effective; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council urges the Michigan legislature to immediately act to reduce gun violence and death by enacting common-sense gun safety laws, including Senate Bill Nos. 76-86 of 2023, **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.