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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: April 4, 2023

RE: **RESOLUTION RE-ESTABLISHING THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL GUN
VIOLENCE TASK FORCE**

Council Member Fred Durhal III requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION RE-ESTABLISHING THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE.

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

**BY DETROIT CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD
COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE JAMES TATE
AND COUNCIL MEMBER FRED DURHAL, III**

RESOLUTION REESTABLISHING THE DETROIT CITY COUNCIL GUN VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

- WHEREAS** Cities across the nation, including the City of Detroit have been battling gun violence for decades. The fight against gun violence has been difficult to solve, partially due to an overabundance of gun availability on the streets and lenient gun laws making it extremely easy to obtain guns by almost anyone. Currently, there are more guns in the U.S., than there are people. In addition to that, poverty, years of diminishing resources, and inequities in the Justice System has left the City of Detroit vulnerable to gun violence; and
- WHEREAS** According to the most recent data, 48,000 deaths nationwide involved a gun in 2021, according to nationwide figures compiled by the non-profit group, Gun Violence Archive (GVA); and
- WHEREAS** In 2020, gun violence became the leading cause of death for kids and teens in the United States surpassing automobile accidents, drug overdoses and cancer. According to a New England Journal of Medicine study, there were 3,219 such deaths followed by motor vehicle deaths, of which there were 2,882; and
- WHEREAS** The number of people shot on school property in 2022 increased 46% from 227 in 2021 to 332 in 2022; and
- WHEREAS** There were 648 mass shootings in the United States in 2022, resulting in 672 deaths and 2700 injuries, the second highest number on record, according to (GVA); and
- WHEREAS** In addition to homicides by firearm, the firearm suicide rate more than doubled among Black, Latino, and Asian teenagers. The rate of young people taking their lives with firearms in the United States has increased faster than for any other age group, with the youth suicide rate is at its highest point in more than 20 years. While the overall firearm suicide rate increased about 2% during the pandemic, the rate among young people increased 15% and nearly half of all suicide attempts by young people involve a gun, according to researchers with the group Everytown for Gun Safety; and
- WHEREAS** Detroit continues to be one of the poorest and most violent cities in the country. Detroit gun-related arrests and crimes surged in the city in early 2021, eventually resulting in 309 homicides, 1,065 non-fatal shootings and the confiscation of approximately 8000 guns; and
- WHEREAS** Gun violence continues to be one of the leading causes of death for African Americans between ages 15 and 34, with 52 percent of gun homicide victims being Black males despite Black males making up only 7 percent of the population; and
- WHEREAS** Irrational and senseless, shootings torment the community, prevent stability, and cause the deterioration of the most basic social contract of the right to live peacefully. Exposure to gun violence, not only injures and kills people, but it also causes a myriad of psychological

effects on survivors and witnesses. The aftereffects of gun violence can potentially spiral into psychiatric problems, leading to more violence and other destructive behaviors; and

WHEREAS The Detroit City Council recognizes the urgency of ending gun violence and preserving all lives in the City of Detroit. City Council has been involved in forums, attended rallies, and supported several initiatives to curb gun violence throughout the city. Many more resources are needed to effectively and continuously uplift and assist Detroit City Council's efforts to prevent, treat, and inform the community about gun violence; **NOW THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED The Detroit City Council hereby reestablishes the Gun Violence Task Force effective immediately and continuing until December 31, 2023, co-chaired by Council Member Fred Durhal III, Council President Mary Sheffield and Council President Pro Tem James Tate. The Gun Violence Task Force may include residents, representatives from the community, labor, law enforcement, and the business sector, as well as any other individuals interested in participating.