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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: November 13, 2023

RE: RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH**

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

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

WHEREAS, Indigenous people have resided in Detroit for centuries. The Anishinaabe, or the “Three Fires People,” composed of the Ojibwe, Ottawa, and Potawatomie tribes resided on this land before it become known as the City of Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Because of Detroit’s proximity to large bodies of water, indigenous people have always relied upon this land as a place for hunting, fishing, trading, transporting, and fellowshipping. This is their ancestral homeland, and their alliance was formed in spite of the unjust treaties and forced relocations conducted by French and British colonizers; and

WHEREAS, According to the U.S. Census Bureau, there are more than 30,000 people who identify as full or half Native American currently living in metro Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Since long before European colonization, Native communities have passed down rich cultures, knowledge, traditions, and ways of life. Native Americans have continued to make valuable contributions to all aspects of society, and they remain committed to the stewardship of the natural world; and

WHEREAS, Detroit is a diverse city, and must practice solidarity with all historically and currently oppressed communities; and

WHEREAS, The recognition of Native American Heritage Month is a commitment to truth, justice, and reconciliation, as well as a time to remember centuries of colonization, forced relocation, and marginalization. It is an opportunity to honor and to establish a deeper understanding of the rich and diverse contributions of Indigenous communities to the city of Detroit; and

WHEREAS, Native American Heritage Month is also a time to celebrate Native American communities, which have served as the foundation of this country for centuries; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes November as Native American Heritage Month; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk send copies of this resolution to the North American Indian Association of Detroit and the Detroit Indigenous Peoples Alliance.

