


David Whitaker, Esq.
Director
Irvin Corley, Jr.
Executive Policy Manager
Marcell R. Todd, Jr.
Director, City Planning
Commission
Janese Chapman
Director, Historic Designation
Advisory Board

John Alexander
Roland Amarteifio
LaKisha Barclift, Esq.
Paige Blessman
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP
Eric Fazzini, AICP
Willene Green
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
Phillip Keller, Esq.
Edward King
Kelsey Maas
Jamie Murphy
Analine Powers, Ph.D.
W. Akilah Redmond
Laurie Anne Sabatini
Rebecca Savage
Sabrina Shockley
Renee Short
Floyd Stanley
Thomas Stephens, Esq.
Timarie Szwed
Theresa Thomas
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: January 4, 2024

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED BRITTANY CLARDY ACT
FOR MISSING AND MURDERED BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS**

Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED BRITTANY CLARDY ACT FOR MISSING AND MURDERED BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS.**

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

BY MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE PROPOSED BRITTANY CLARDY ACT FOR MISSING AND MURDERED BLACK WOMEN AND GIRLS

WHEREAS, On September 19, 2023, US House Representative Ilhan Omar introduced HR 5573, entitled the Brittany Clardy Act for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls; and

WHEREAS, Brittany Clardy, an 18-year-old Black woman from Minnesota, was tragically found murdered in 2013. Her family members immediately reported to law enforcement that Clardy was missing, however officers initially dismissed their concerns and delayed the investigation; and

WHEREAS, According to the National Crime Information Center (NCIC), Black women and girls accounted 20% of all missing persons cases despite being only 7% of the US population¹, and Black women have the highest rate of death from homicide among women;² and

WHEREAS, Despite Black women being overrepresented in the population of missing persons, they are vastly underrepresented in media coverage of missing persons in both the cases that are covered by the media and the length of coverage, especially compared to White women;³ and

WHEREAS, This bias towards a lack of interest in missing persons cases involving Black women also appears to exist in law enforcement, as cases involving Black women stay open four times longer than other cases on average;⁴ and

WHEREAS, In May of 2023, Minnesota took a proactive measure to address these disparities by passing a law that created the first Office of Missing African American Women and Girls; and

WHEREAS, The Minnesota Office of Missing African American Women and Girls is intended to address the disparities by investigating cold cases, reopening closed cases where Black women or girls were declared to have died under suspicious circumstances, and assisting police agencies and community groups with active cases; and

WHEREAS, The Brittany Clardy Act introduced in the US House of Representatives would create a national Office for Missing Black Women and Girls within the Department of Justice;

WHEREAS, As a city with a roughly 78% black population, Detroit has an interest in eliminating any racial bias with regard to the treatment of missing persons cases, and to ensure that missing

¹ 2022 NCIC Missing Person and Unidentified Person Statistics

² Research in Action, Missing and Murdered African American Women Task Force report, December 2022 - <https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/ojp/Documents/MMAAW%20full%20report%20final.pdf>

³ Zach Sommers, *Missing White Woman Syndrome: An Empirical Analysis of Race and Gender Disparities in Online News Coverage of Missing Persons*, 106 J. Crim. L. & Criminology (2016); Jada L. Moss, *The Forgotten Victims of Missing White Woman Syndrome: An Examination of Legal Measures That Contribute to the Lack of Search and Recovery of Missing Black Girls and Women*, 25 Wm. & Mary J. Women & L. 737 (2019)

⁴ The United States of America's Compliance with the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, Parallel Report Relating to Rights of Women and Girls of Color. The CERD Parallel Report draws on statistics from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, analyzed in Petrosky et al., "Racial and Ethnic Differences in Homicides of Adult Women and the Role of Intimate Partner Violence — United States, 2003–2014." DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.mm6628a1Externa>

persons cases involving Black women and girls are given adequate attention and resources;
NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council hereby strongly urges the United States Legislature to pass the Brittany Clardy Act for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Clerk send copies of this resolution to the Michigan delegation to the United States Congress.