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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 7, 2024

RE: **RESOLUTION URGING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW
ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS TO MICROCHIP AND TO ADMINISTER
RABIES VACCINES**

Council Member Fred Durhal III requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) provide a resolution urging the Michigan legislature to allow Animal Control Officers to microchip and to administer rabies vaccines.

Please contact our office if we can be of any further assistance.

BY MEMBER FRED DURHAL III

RESOLUTION URGING THE MICHIGAN LEGISLATURE TO ALLOW ANIMAL CONTROL OFFICERS TO MICROCHIP AND TO ADMINISTER RABIES VACCINES

WHEREAS Detroit Animal Care & Control responds to over 20,000 calls and shelters roughly 8,000 dogs annually; and

WHEREAS In many cases, Animal Control Officers discover that dog owners are not in compliance with state law and local ordinances requiring dogs to be registered and vaccinated for rabies when they respond to calls; and

WHEREAS Currently, the Michigan Dog Law of 1919 requires that rabies vaccines must be administered and certified by an accredited veterinarian and that microchips must be administered by a veterinarian, animal control shelter, or animal protection shelter; and

WHEREAS There are very few accredited veterinarians operating within the city of Detroit and it can take weeks to schedule an appointment for a rabies vaccine and/or microchipping; and

WHEREAS Additionally, the cost of a veterinarian visit and transporting an animal to a veterinarian are barriers that discourage dog owners from complying with state and local law; and

WHEREAS For cities like Detroit with a high volume of loose and stray dogs, it is imperative for the law to allow Animal Control Officers to be as efficient as possible with their time and resources; and

WHEREAS Allowing Animal Control Officers to administer microchips and rabies vaccinations on-site in the field will increase public safety by significantly increasing the number of registered animals who are vaccinated for rabies; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED The Detroit City Council hereby strongly urges the Michigan legislature to amend the Michigan Dog Law of 1919 to allow Animal Control Officers to administer microchips and rabies vaccines to dogs when responding to calls in the field, **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

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