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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: April 8, 2024

RE: RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM FOR MARK DENSON

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM FOR MARK DENSON.

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

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

RESOLUTION BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD

RESOLUTION IN MEMORIAM FOR MARK DENSON

- WHEREAS,** After serving the Detroit Economic Growth Corporation with distinction since 2010, as its Business Attraction Manager and later as its Senior Director for Strategy and Operations, Mark Denson has unexpectedly passed away; and
- WHEREAS,** Prior to his tenure with the DEGC, Mr. Denson worked with the Detroit Regional Economic Partnership, where he directed and managed international business activities focused on new investment opportunities in the United States and Canada; and
- WHEREAS,** In addition, Mr. Denson worked with the Livonia Economic Development Partnership, the Detroit Entrepreneurship Institute and the One Stop Capital Shop of Detroit. Mr. Denson has also worked with government agencies such as the Wayne County Commission, Committee on Economic Development and has also worked with former U.S. Sen. Donald Riegle; and
- WHEREAS,** Known as “**Mr. Detroit**” by his friends and colleagues, Mr. Denson’s commitment to community service has also included memberships on the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG) Community/Economic Development Advisory Committee; the executive committee of the Metropolitan Growth and Development Corp.; and the boards of the Michigan Global Partnership and Michigan Land Use Institute; and
- WHEREAS,** During his tenure with the DEGC, Mr. Denson also served as Interim Vice President with DEGC, responsible for Business Attraction, Retention, & Expansion, Foreign Direct Investment, and Export services; and
- WHEREAS,** Most recently, in his role as the DEGC’s Senior Director for Strategy and Operations, Mr. Denson led a team dedicated to understanding opportunities and threats, identifying new processes and solutions, while positioning DEGC for wins in both the short and long-term; and
- WHEREAS,** Mr. Denson worked in Economic Development in the city for 35 years and was the go-to person for all who knew him for information about Detroit history, Detroit developments, and tours of the city and was a downtown enlightened fixture of a Detroiter who loved his city; and
- WHEREAS,** Although he was a dynamic worker, with an unquestioned tremendous work ethic, and a one of the distinguished men of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated, Mr. Denson was known by his peers as a comedian, who would light up any room he walked into. He was a snarky, blunt, and smart, with a heart bigger than the city he loved. He was a kind and beautiful soul that will be truly missed; and
- WHEREAS,** Given the void created by Mr. Denson’s untimely passing, it will be truly difficult to ever replace the service of such a dynamic, dedicated, generous and gifted public servant; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council extends sincere condolences to family, friends and to the DEGC, on the passing of Mark Denson.