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# City of Detroit

## CITY COUNCIL

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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: April 4, 2024

RE: **RESOLUTION URGING A CHANGE IN STATE LAW TO EXCLUDE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FROM TAX ABATEMENTS AND TAX CAPTURES**

Council President Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION URGING A CHANGE IN STATE LAW TO EXCLUDE WAYNE COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE FROM TAX ABATEMENTS AND TAX CAPTURES.

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

Attachment

**BY PRESIDENT MARY SHEFFIELD**

**RESOLUTION URGING A CHANGE IN STATE LAW TO EXCLUDE WAYNE COUNTY  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE FROM TAX ABATEMENTS AND TAX CAPTURES**

**WHEREAS,** The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit's citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

**WHEREAS,** The mission of the Wayne County Community College District (WCCCD) is to empower individuals, businesses, and communities to achieve their higher education and career advancement goals through excellent, accessible, culturally diverse, and globally competitive programs and services; and

**WHEREAS,** Despite its best efforts, WCCCD has struggled to fulfill its mission, since historically, it has relied heavily on property tax collections, which is almost 60% of the annual revenue to fund the district. Given its heavy reliance on local property tax revenue, excluding WCCCD from tax abatements and tax captures would assist this esteemed institution to accomplish the missions for which it was established; and

**WHEREAS,** The State of Michigan has previously excluded the Detroit Institute of Arts (DIA) and the Detroit Zoo, from tax incentives, which proved to be economically beneficial to both institutions. A similar State action on behalf of WCCCD, may prove to be beneficial to this institution as well; and

**WHEREAS,** Thereby, with an exemption from tax incentives, WCCCD would realize an immediate impact from an exemption from tax incentives. **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council, a staunch supporter of WCCCD, is now respectfully requesting that the State of Michigan support this venerable institution of learning, by changing both the tax abatement and tax capture laws of the State by excluding WCCCD from tax abatements and tax captures, in order to provide the institution an immediate increase in funding. **THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the Detroit delegations of both the State House and State Senate, in addition to Governor Gretchen Whitmer.