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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: August 26, 2024

RE: **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 9-13 AS CONSTRUCTION
SUICIDE PREVENTION WEEK**

Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution recognizing Construction Suicide Prevention Week.

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

BY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY

**RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING SEPTEMBER 9-13 AS CONSTRUCTION SUICIDE
PREVENTION WEEK**

- WHEREAS,** According to the US Bureau of Labor Statistics, there are currently over 200,000 construction employees in the state of Michigan; and
- WHEREAS,** The construction industry has one of the highest suicide rates of any profession in the United States according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;¹ and
- WHEREAS,** Some contributing factors for the alarming rate of suicide among construction workers are long hours, demanding deadlines, harsh weather and working conditions, spending long periods of time away from their homes and families, and the potential for injuries which can also lead to opioid misuse and addiction;² and
- WHEREAS,** Construction also remains a predominantly male-dominated industry with a culture that often promotes toughness without complaints, which can discourage workers from admitting that they need help; and
- WHEREAS,** In recent years, the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity (LEO) and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration (MIOSHA) have been making efforts to raise awareness of mental health issues and provide resources to workers and employers; and
- WHEREAS,** It is necessary for the Michigan construction industry to continue to have open discussions about warning signs and suicide prevention, while also exploring methods to improve working conditions and removing the stigma associated with seeking help; and
- WHEREAS,** Any construction employees that are having difficulty coping with work-related stress can seek confidential support from the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline by calling 988 or online at 988lifeline.org/chat; and
- WHEREAS,** The Detroit City Council encourages all employers in Michigan's construction industry to invest in the mental health and wellness of their employees through prevention, training, and resources; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED,** The Detroit City Council hereby recognizes September 9-13 as Construction Suicide Prevention Week; **THEREFORE, BE IT FINALLY**
- RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Clerk is directed to send this resolution to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity and the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

¹ <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/72/wr/mm7250a2.htm>

² <https://www.nbenews.com/politics/economics/construction-workers-are-dying-suicide-alarming-rate-rcna156587>