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**TO:** Honorable Detroit City Council

**FROM:** David Whitaker, Director  
Legislative Policy Division 

**SUBJECT:** Re-establishment of City Council Youth and Civic Engagement Task Force

**DATE:** February 4, 2025

**City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution to reestablish the Youth and Civic Engagement Task Force.**

Attached is the requested resolution. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

## A Resolution by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Callaway

### REESTABLISHING THE YOUTH AND CIVIC ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

- WHEREAS** Youth civic engagement has been defined as working to make a difference in the civic life of one's community. It involves developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make a difference; and
- WHEREAS** Civic engagement takes many forms including, registering voters, working at polling locations, working with organizations such as AmeriCorps or Senior corps, serving on boards or commissions, volunteering for a political party or candidate, or running for elected office; and
- WHEREAS** Youth civic engagement activities and programs are critical for empowering young persons to develop their skills and talents; participate in political, economic, and social conversations; and become agents of positive change in their communities; and
- WHEREAS** By developing healthy civic habits, skills and commitment, the introduction of youth to civic engagement activities at a young age can form a habit that will last a lifetime and help our democracy proper, and
- WHEREAS** Traditionally, young persons from disadvantaged backgrounds have shown low levels of civic knowledge and engagement, due to factors such as, a young person's setting (rural-urban), employment status, social class and wealth, and racial and ethnic background; and
- WHEREAS** Our communities and our democracy become more just and equitable when all people individually and collectively get involved and take action; and
- WHEREAS** The voice of our young people matters more than ever in political and civic decision making in this time when democracy is on the decline and authoritarianism is on the rise around the globe; and
- WHEREAS** Civic minded young persons can promote the develop of policies that build trust, generate social cohesion, promote political and social inclusion amongst diverse populations; and
- WHEREAS** Young people have a tremendous stake in the decisions that shape our country and by providing youth greater access to opportunities to participate and be engaged at all levels of governance and policymaking they will be better equipped to fully participate in decisions that are affecting their lives through access to resources, knowledge, and opportunities for engagement; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** The Detroit City Council hereby reestablishes the Youth and Civic Engagement Task Force effective immediately, continuing until December 31, 2025, to be chaired by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Callaway to promote youth engagement in civic matters, the political process, and advocacy, in order to build better and stronger communities and assist our youth in becoming actively involved citizens.

