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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division 

SUBJECT: Reestablishment of the Detroit City Council Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force

DATE: February 4, 2025

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) produce a resolution reestablishing the Human and Sex Trafficking 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-Calloway

Reestablishing the Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force

- WHEREAS** Every year, millions of men, women, and children are trafficked in countries around the world, including the United States. It is estimated that human trafficking generates billions of dollars of profit per year, second only to drug trafficking; and
- WHEREAS** Preying upon those who are more susceptible for a variety of reasons, including psychological or emotional vulnerability, economic hardship, and lack of a social safety net, natural disasters, or political instability, traffickers use force, fraud, or coercion to lure their victims and force them into labor or commercial sexual exploitation; and
- WHEREAS** Human and sex trafficking disproportionately impacts persons of color, women, and girls, LGBTQI+ individuals, migrants, and others from historically marginalized and underserved communities. According to the Kirwan Institute for the study of race and ethnicity at Ohio State University, 77% of victims in the United States are people of color; and
- WHEREAS** Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel recently hosted a roundtable discussion to raise awareness to the Human Trafficking problem in the state of Michigan and the importance of education on detection and the scale of Human Trafficking in our state; and
- WHEREAS** In 2021, of the 25,000 children reported missing to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children who had run away, 1 in 6 were likely sex trafficking victims; and
- WHEREAS** More than 5,000 human trafficking survivors have been identified across the state of Michigan since 2007, and Michigan currently ranks in the top ten in the nation in the number of cases reported by the state, according to the Human Rights Trafficking Hotline; and
- WHEREAS** In 2023, there were 254 identified Human Trafficking cases in Michigan, involving 506 victims; and
- WHEREAS** There is a need for training and education programs, and the creation of partnerships with various community and social services agencies; **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**
- RESOLVED** Recognizing the notable gains made by the Detroit City Council Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force and in response to the nature and ongoing prevalence of human trafficking in the city of Detroit, the Detroit City Council hereby reestablishes the Human and Sex Trafficking Task Force effective immediately, continuing until December 31, 2025, to be chaired by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway.