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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director  
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: April 14, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PISTONS' WATERFRONT MULTISPORT  
COMPLEX**

City Council Member Scott Benson has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution in support of the Detroit Pistons' proposed investment in a waterfront multisport complex on the former Uniroyal site.

## A Resolution by Council Member Scott Benson

### RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF PISTONS' WATERFRONT MULTISPORT COMPLEX

- WHEREAS** As part of a recent bid to bring a new WNBA professional women's basketball team to Detroit, Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores expressed an interest in transforming the former Uniroyal site on Detroit's riverfront into a WNBA practice facility as well as a youth sports complex and recreation center; and
- WHEREAS** The site, which has sat undeveloped since the Uniroyal factory was demolished in 1985, consists of 44 acres of prime riverfront property that connects with the Detroit riverwalk, the Joe Louis Greenway and Belle Isle; and
- WHEREAS** A multisport recreation complex on the Detroit riverfront represents a transformational opportunity for the City and the region by activating the riverfront, supporting youth development, and advancing Detroit's reputation as a center for athletics and recreation; and
- WHEREAS** The Detroit Pistons have proven to be a committed partner to the City and the region through investments such as the Henry Ford Detroit Pistons Performance Center and Center for Athletic Medicine, the renovation of nearly 60 basketball courts in 50 parks throughout Detroit, continually offering free basketball clinics to the community, and various grants, donations, and volunteer work to support youth education and athletics; and
- WHEREAS** Detroit's youth and residents deserve to have access to state of the art facilities such as world-class indoor tennis courts capable of hosting United States Tennis Association (USTA) events and an indoor, competition-grade track and field facility that can host Amateur Athletic Union events; and
- WHEREAS** The facility also has the potential to activate the Detroit River and provide community access with infrastructure and programming for sailing and crewing, and access to Olympic and scholarship water-based sports; and
- WHEREAS** Although specific plans for the site have not yet been made publicly available, the Detroit City Council is looking forward to further details regarding requests for public investment or incentives with the hope that the plan includes robust community engagement and is consistent with the City's mission of returning the use of Detroit's riverfront to its residents for public use; and
- WHEREAS** This initiative is an exceptional opportunity to transform a once-abandoned site into a space that can provide long lasting benefits to Detroit residents, attract regional and national events, and promote equity through access to high-quality recreational facilities; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**
- RESOLVED** The Detroit City Council hereby expresses its support for the Detroit Pistons' proposed investment in a waterfront multisport complex pending a comprehensive final site plan that provides the maximum benefit for both the Detroit Pistons organization and Detroit residents; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**
- RESOLVED** That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to Mayor Mike Duggan and Detroit Pistons owner Tom Gores.

