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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff



DATE: October 3, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY CELEBRATION**

Council Member Santiago-Romero has asked the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to provide a resolution recognizing that the City of Waawiyatanong/Detroit will be hosting an Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration on Monday, October 13, 2025, at Hart Plaza from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

RESOLUTION TO RECOGNIZE THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES' DAY CELEBRATION

WHEREAS; In 2017, the Detroit City Council officially recognized the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS; The Detroit City Council acknowledges that the City's land originally belonged to the Council of Three Fires (Ojibwe, Odawa, and Potawatomi); and

WHEREAS; The history of the land now known as Detroit, formerly and still known to some as Zagajibiising and Waawiyaatenong to the Anishinaabe in what is now known as the state of Michigan, whose name is derived from the Anishinaabe term for the great lakes, Michigami, includes the neighborhood of Delray that contains burial mounds common throughout the Mississippi River Valley, Canada and Mexico, connecting indigenous people to each other in ways that are not typically disclosed through contemporary histories; and

WHEREAS; Indigenous Peoples' Day is a day to reflect upon the ongoing struggles of Indigenous Peoples on this land and to celebrate the thriving cultures and values that Indigenous Peoples contribute to our community; and

WHEREAS; To celebrate Indigenous Peoples' Day, the City of Detroit will be hosting celebration in Hart Plaza on October 13, 2025; and

WHEREAS; This event builds on the work of former District 6 Council Member Raquel Castañeda López, whose office championed the 2017 City Council resolution recognizing Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS; It is the City Council's hope that year's celebration will not be just a one-time return to a tradition once held at Hart Plaza more than three decades ago, but the continuation of a cultural staple that endures for generations to come; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED; That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes that the City of Waawiyatanong/Detroit will be hosting an Indigenous Peoples' Day Celebration on Monday, October 13, 2025, at Hart Plaza from 12:00 p.m. until 6:00 p.m.; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED; That the Detroit City Council hereby expresses its gratitude to our partners who helped to successfully bring this event together: the North American Indian Association of Detroit (NAIA), the Detroit Indigenous Peoples' Alliance (DIPA), the Southeast Michigan Indians Inc. (SEMI), and the American Indian Health and Family Services (AIHFS); **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED; That the Detroit City Clerk's Office provide a copy of this resolution to the NAIA, DIPA, SEMI, and AIHFS.