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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff



DATE: October 31, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LIVING WAGE FOR MUSICIANS ACT**

Council President Mary Sheffield has requested that LPD draft a resolution calling for the introduction and passage of the Living Wage for Musicians Act.

Please contact our office if we can be of any further assistance.

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE LIVING WAGE FOR MUSICIANS ACT

- WHEREAS** Congresswoman Rashida Tlaib recently reintroduced the Living Wage for Musicians Act, originally introduced on March 7, 2024, which aims to increase the compensation that musicians receive when their music plays on streaming services; and
- WHEREAS** Streaming music services have become the dominant method of music consumption, accounting for 84% of total recorded music revenue in the United States in 2024, according to the Recording Industry Association of America (RIAA);¹ and
- WHEREAS** Revenues from paid subscription services have grown for 9 consecutive years and reached \$11.7 billion in 2024, according to the RIAA;² and
- WHEREAS** According to Luminate’s year-end report, there were more than 4.8 trillion songs streamed on demand in 2024;³ and
- WHEREAS** Although the royalty rate varies slightly across streaming platforms, many artists earn a royalty rate as low as \$0.003 per stream; and
- WHEREAS** At a rate of \$0.003 per stream, it would take more than 800,000 monthly streams for a recording artist to earn the equivalent of a \$15-per-hour full-time job; and
- WHEREAS** Detroit and the surrounding region is home to thousands of artists who significantly contribute to the cultural landscape and continue the City’s global legacy as a hub of music and its significant contributions across various genres including soul, funk, R&B, rock, blues, jazz, hip-hop, and techno; and
- WHEREAS** The Living Wage for Musicians Act would create a new streaming royalty with the aim to compensate artists and musicians more fairly at a minimum of a penny per stream when their music plays on a streaming service; and
- WHEREAS** The Act would direct a portion of streaming platforms’ subscription and non-subscription revenue to a non-profit distribution fund that would pay artists proportionately to their monthly streams; and
- WHEREAS** The Act includes a maximum payout per track, per month, to generate more sustainable income for a broader and more diverse set of artists; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**
- RESOLVED** The Detroit City Council hereby calls on the United States Congress to pass, and the President to sign, the Living Wage for Musicians Act.

¹ <https://www.riaa.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/03/RIAA-2024Year-End-Revenue-Report.pdf>

² *Id.*

³ <https://luminatedata.com/reports/yearend-music-industry-report-2024/>

