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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division 

DATE: October 9, 2025

RE: **Resolution to proclaim November as Family Court Awareness Month**

Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) produce a resolution proclaiming the month of November as Family Court Awareness Month. Attached is the requested resolution. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

A RESOLUTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD CALLOWAY

Proclaiming the month of November as Family Court Awareness Month

- WHEREAS** Ms. Tina Swithin became an advocate for change in the Family Court System after enduring a ten-year high conflict custody battle and seeing the flaws in the system firsthand, recognizing the need to shine a spotlight on systemic issues that are placing children in harm's way; and
- WHEREAS** In 2020, Ms. Tina Swithin in collaboration with Sandra Ross of The California Protective Parents Association, founded, "Family Court Awareness Month"; and
- WHEREAS** In its inaugural year, the Family Court Awareness Month Committee (FCAMC) memorialized the initiative with a cross-country tour that started in California and ended in North Carolina, receiving support from various domestic violence advocates, law enforcement officers, district attorneys, attorneys, and judges; and
- WHEREAS** The mission of the FCAMC is to increase awareness on the importance of education and training on domestic violence, childhood trauma and post separation abuse for all professionals working within the family court system; and
- WHEREAS** The purpose of the FCAMC is to educate judges and other family court professionals on empirical data and peer-reviewed research that is currently available and increase awareness of the importance of using scientifically valid, evidence-based treatment programs and services that are proven in terms of safety, effectiveness, and therapeutic value; and
- WHEREAS** The desire to create awareness and change in the family court system for the conservatively estimated, 58,000 children a year ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents, while honoring the over 800 children who have been murdered since 2008 by a parent in an estranged relationship fuels the mission of the FCAMC; and (Source: Center for Judicial Excellence)
- WHEREAS** The month of November was purposefully chosen as Family Court Awareness Month, as it dovetails October's Domestic Violence Awareness Month; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**
- RESOLVED** The Detroit City Council unequivocally supports the FCAMC in its mission of serving the community by increasing awareness of the importance of a family court system that promotes child safety and encourages decisions that are in the best interest of children **NOW, BE IT FURTHER,**
- RESOLVED** The Detroit City Council through Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway, proclaims the month of November as Family Court Awareness Month.