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FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division 

DATE: January 23, 2026

RE: **Resolution creating the Detroit City Council Domestic Violence Task Force**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) provide a resolution establishing the Detroit City Council Domestic Violence Task Force.

Attached is the requested resolution. Please let us know if we can be of further assistance.

A RESOLUTION BY ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY

WHEREAS Domestic violence is commonly defined as abusive behavior in any personal relationship that allows one partner to intimidate, or to gain power and control over the other; and

WHEREAS While the term was initially used to label physical assaults against women by their husbands, acts of domestic violence are committed by both men and women, against their spouses or same-sex partners; and

WHEREAS Domestic violence laws now extend to protect any members of the same household including siblings, cohabitating individuals and roommates, and include physical, sexual, psychological, emotional abuse, as well as threats of violence or economic control; and

WHEREAS Some of the common causes of domestic violence are mental health problems, poverty and unemployment, lack of education, substance and alcohol abuse, suspicions of infidelity, and relationship retention; and

WHEREAS Domestic violence and its effects stretch across all genders, cultures, and social status, with Black women and children being disproportionately affected, especially in urban areas; and

WHEREAS In a recent study which graded each state on its domestic violence laws, Michigan earned a grade of C, reflecting a moderate level of support, finding that there were limited gun laws in place and notable gaps in shelter availability classifying Michigan shelter access as 79% unmet; and

WHEREAS According to the Detroit Police Department and domestic violence shelter operators, a concerning pattern developed during the pandemic and these numbers continue to climb; and

WHEREAS Detroit City Council recognizes the need to develop effective tools to stop domestic violence in our community, by providing appropriate resources and responses focusing on expanding violence prevention, early intervention, and creating easy access to safety and service information for survivors; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED The Detroit City Council hereby establishes the Domestic Violence Task Force effective immediately, continuing until December 31, 2026, to be chaired by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway to effectively address domestic violence through its prevention; the provision of appropriate resources, and building capacity within and coordination between community-based organizations and city agencies; **NOW, BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED The City of Detroit Domestic Violence Task Force shall:

- study the effectiveness of current intervention strategies and explore new interventions that might strengthen efforts to prevent domestic violence;

- study existing legal, behavioral health, and family support policies, procedures, and practices to ascertain existing issues and identify resources needed to improve the delivery and effectiveness of domestic violence prevention and family support services;
- study ways to further engage and educate community stakeholders to be better informed and more engaged in identifying and preventing domestic violence in the community;
- study the ways individuals, families, and the community at large can better identify, report, and defend against domestic violence; and
- develop policy recommendations to improve the ability of State and local government, community stakeholders, families, and individuals to identify and prevent domestic violence in the City of Detroit.