


David Whitaker, Esq.
Director
Irvin Corley, Jr.
Executive Policy Manager
Marcell R. Todd, Jr.
Director, City Planning
Commission
Janese Chapman
Director, Historic Designation
Advisory Board

John Alexander
LaKisha Barclift, Esq.
Paige Blessman
M. Rory Bolger, Ph.D., FAICP
Victory Corley
Lisa DiChiera
Eric Fazzini, AICP
Willene Green
Christopher Gulock, AICP
Marcel Hurt, Esq.
Sandra Jeffers

City of Detroit
CITY COUNCIL
LEGISLATIVE POLICY DIVISION
208 Coleman A. Young Municipal Center
Detroit, Michigan 48226
Phone: (313) 224-4946 Fax: (313) 224-4336

Kimani Jeffrey
Anthony W. L. Johnson
Phillip Keller, Esq.
Edward King
Kelsey Maas
Jamie Murphy
Dolores Perales
Analine Powers, Ph.D.
W. Akilah Redmond
Rebecca Savage
Sabrina Shockley
Renee Short
Floyd Stanley
Thomas Stephens, Esq.
Timarie Szwed
Theresa Thomas
Janice Tillmon
Ian Tomashik
Emberly Vick
Ashley A. Wilson

TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: May 1, 2026

RE: **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK**

City Council Member Lat has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution recognizing May 4-8, 2026 as Air Quality Awareness Week.

Please contact our office if your require any further assistance.

A Resolution by Council Member Latisha Johnson

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK

- WHEREAS** Clean air is essential to the health and well-being of all individuals, communities and ecosystems; and
- WHEREAS** Since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first recognized Air Quality Awareness Week over two decades ago, the week has been recognized across the country as a time to educate the public on the importance of protecting our air quality and to promote actions that improve air quality; and
- WHEREAS** As a city that was historically shaped and structured around industrial manufacturing, Detroit continues to reconcile its industrial roots with modern understandings of the harmful effects of air pollutants on human health; and
- WHEREAS** The Metro Detroit area received an F in the American Lung Association’s most recent State of the Air report, ranking 11th-worst nationally for short-term particle pollution and 9th for year-round fine particulate pollution;¹ and
- WHEREAS** Exposure to air pollution is causally linked to multiple negative health outcomes including cardiovascular disease, cancer development, respiratory illness, and stroke;² and
- WHEREAS** Many cognitive and birth outcomes are also impacted by air pollution such as learning disabilities, dementia, preterm and low weight births, miscarriages, and infertility; and
- WHEREAS** Air pollution may also create negative economic impacts for the City and its residents including higher healthcare costs, lower worker productivity, and decreased tourism; and
- WHEREAS** Many forms of air pollution pose a significantly higher risk for the elderly, children, and people with chronic respiratory illnesses such as asthma;³ and
- WHEREAS** Unfortunately, in the last year the EPA has engaged in the most significant rollbacks of air pollution regulation in U.S. history, including air pollution limits for fossil fuel-fired power plants, which is expected to have drastic consequences for air quality and lung health;⁴ and
- WHEREAS** Air Quality Awareness week emphasizes the importance of working together to improve air quality and protect public health, while recognizing the interconnectedness of air quality, climate change, transportation, and environmental justice; and
- WHEREAS** All individuals, businesses, and governments are stakeholders with an important role to play in improving air quality through reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, supporting clean energy initiatives, and staying informed about air quality levels through tools like the Air Quality Index;⁵ **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**

¹ <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/32f0646d-c5de-4501-b0ac-07cd63c974d4/State-of-the-Air-2026-Report.pdf>

² Keswani, A., Akselrod, H., & Anenberg, S. C. (2022). Health and Clinical Impacts of Air Pollution and Linkages with Climate Change. NEJM Evidence, 1(7), EVIDra2200068. <https://doi.org/10.1056/EVIDra2200068>

³ Simoni, M., Baldacci, S., Maio, S., Cerrai, S., Sarno, G., & Viegi, G. (2015). Adverse effects of outdoor pollution in the elderly. Journal of Thoracic Disease, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.3978/j.issn.2072-1439.2014.12.10>

⁴ <https://www.lung.org/blog/powerplant-emissions-rollback>

⁵ <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/>

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes May 4-9, 2026 as Air Quality Awareness Week; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council encourages all members of the public to participate in the various community events for Air Quality Awareness Week, which are listed at <https://cleartheairmi.org/aqaw/>; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to the Mayor, the Detroit Health Department, Clear the Air, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Eastside Community Network, the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, Just Air, the Green Door Initiative, Michigan Climate Action Network, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, the Michigan Environmental Council, the Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition, and Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision.