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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: July 24, 2026

RE: **RESOLUTION URGING THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO HOLD
PUBLIC HEARINGS WHEN IT CONSIDERS A DTE GAS OR ELECTRIC RATE
INCREASE**

City Council Member Denzel McCampbell has requested that the Legislative Policy Division provide a resolution urging the Michigan Public Service Commission to hold public hearings in Detroit when it considers a DTE gas or electric rate increase. The requested resolution is attached.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us if we can be of further assistance.

BY CITY COUNCIL MEMBER DENZEL MCCAMPBELL

RESOLUTION URGING THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS WHEN IT CONSIDERS A DTE GAS OR ELECTRIC RATE INCREASE

- WHEREAS** DTE Energy Company is a publicly traded energy company whose regulated electric utility serves approximately 2.3 million customers in Southeast Michigan, including Detroit; and although Michigan law permits limited electric-supplier choice, participation is capped at ten percent of utility sales and no alternative electric suppliers currently market or enroll residential customers.¹
- WHEREAS** On July 3, 2026, a severe storm crossed southern Lower Michigan with widespread wind gusts of approximately sixty to seventy miles per hour, causing significant tree damage and leaving nearly 400,000 Southeast Michigan utility customers without electricity at the peak of the event; tens of thousands of residents remained without power on July 6.²
- WHEREAS** Since 2020, the Michigan Public Service Commission has approved more than \$1 billion in additional annual revenue for DTE, despite continuing concerns regarding reliability and affordability; the Michigan Attorney General has repeatedly intervened in DTE rate proceedings and has advocated for substantial reductions in the amounts requested by the utility.³
- WHEREAS** The average residential retail price of electricity in Michigan during 2025 was approximately 19.93 cents per kilowatt-hour, compared with a national residential average of 17.30 cents per kilowatt-hour.⁴
- WHEREAS** Per the most recently available nationwide data, Michigan utilities ranked fifty-first among the fifty states and the District of Columbia for Customer Average Interruption Duration Index performance and fiftieth for System Average Interruption Duration Index performance; Michigan's all-weather outage duration per customer increased from 555 minutes in 2019 to 1,093 minutes in 2023.⁵
- WHEREAS** Prolonged power outages are urgent public health and safety emergencies as refrigerated food and medicine may become unsafe leaving our most vulnerable residents and seniors in risk at a time when food and medicine cost are at record highs. Conditions of extreme heat or cold may pose even further threats to residents, as improper generator use can cause fatal carbon monoxide exposure; following the July 3, 2026 storm, three children in Wayne County died in incidents involving generators operated in indoors during power outages.⁶
- WHEREAS** Michigan's service quality rules provide qualifying residential customers with an outage credit of \$42, together with an additional \$42 for each additional qualifying day, depending upon the

¹ DTE Energy Co., *About DTE*, DTE Energy, <https://www.dteenergy.com/us/en/residential/about-dte/about-dte/about-dte.html> (last visited July 16, 2026); Mich. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, *Electric Customer Choice*, State of Mich., <https://www.michigan.gov/mpsc/consumer/electricity/choice> (last visited July 16, 2026); Mich. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, *State's Electric Choice Program Remains Fully Subscribed in 2025* (Feb. 2, 2026).

² Nat'l Weather Serv., *Detroit/Pontiac, July 3, 2026 Severe Weather Event* (July 2026); Mich. Dep't of Att'y Gen., *AG Nessel Reminds Residents to Report Extended Power Outages Following Severe Weather* (July 6, 2026).

³ Mich. Dep't of Att'y Gen., *MPSC Approves \$242.4 Million DTE Electric Rate Hike* (Feb. 19, 2026); Mich. Dep't of Att'y Gen., *DTE Announces New Rate Hike Case 5 Days After Last Rate Hike Approved* (Feb. 27, 2026); Mich. Dep't of Att'y Gen., *DTE Electric Rate Hike Slashed in Half as AG Nessel Helped Save Customers Nearly \$240 Million* (Jan. 24, 2025).

⁴ U.S. Energy Info. Admin., *Electric Power Monthly*, tbl. 5.6.A, Average Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers by End-Use Sector, by State (2025); U.S. Energy Info. Admin., *Electric Power Monthly*, tbl. 5.3, Average Price of Electricity to Ultimate Customers: Total by End-Use Sector, 2016–March 2026 (May 21, 2026).

⁵ Citizens Util. Bd. of Mich., *Michigan Utility Reliability Performance Worse Than Ever, New CUB Report Finds* (Sept. 5, 2025); Mich. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, *Distribution System Reliability Metrics*, State of Mich. (last visited July 16, 2026).

⁶ Mich. State Police, *Power Outages, MI Ready* (last visited July 16, 2026); Pamela Osborne, *Wayne County Children Die from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning After Generator Used During Power Outage*, ClickOnDetroit (July 6, 2026); Kyle Beery, *3 Children Die of Suspected Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Wayne County*, WILX (July 6, 2026).

applicable outage category and duration.⁷ This amount is insufficient to cover the groceries, fuel, and suffering that a prolonged summer or winter outage inflicts.

WHEREAS DTE Energy reported \$1.462 billion in net income attributable to the company for 2025; public reporting further states that the company paid no current net federal income tax for the twelfth consecutive year, while DTE's president and chief executive officer and its executive chairman received approximately \$6.73 million and \$14.16 million, respectively, in reported 2025 compensation.⁸

WHEREAS In DTE Electric's 2024 general rate proceeding, the MPSC rejected \$258,000 in corporate-aircraft travel expenses that DTE sought to recover through customer rates because DTE had not demonstrated that the expense benefited ratepayers.⁹

WHEREAS In December 2025, the MPSC conditionally approved, through an ex parte process rather than a contested-case proceeding, special contracts under which DTE would supply as much as 1,383 megawatts of electricity to a proposed Saline Township data center associated with Oracle, OpenAI, Related Digital, and Green Chile Ventures; the Commission imposed conditions intended to prevent other DTE customers from bearing unrecovered project costs.¹⁰

WHEREAS During DTE Electric's 2024 general rate proceeding, metadata associated with public comment documents identified a DTE spokesperson as the author of at least four comments submitted in the names of businesses supporting DTE's requested increase, and DTE acknowledged that it had drafted comments for vendors at their request.¹¹

WHEREAS On August 22, 2022, the MPSC held an in-person public hearing in Detroit concerning DTE Electric's pending general rate case for the stated purpose of broadening public engagement, allowing residents to speak directly to the Commissioners, and entering their comments into the formal case docket, thereby demonstrating that Detroit-based public hearings are administratively feasible and can supplement the Commission's contested-case process,¹²
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council strongly urges the Michigan Public Service Commission to hold at least one in-person public hearing in the City of Detroit and at least one contemporaneous virtual public hearing whenever the Commission considers a DTE Electric Company or DTE Gas Company general rate case affecting Detroit residents; **AND BE IT**

RESOLVED That the Council recommends that each hearing be announced in advance through the Commission's website, local news outlets, community organizations, libraries, neighborhood associations, and organizations serving seniors and the disabled, as well as through DTE customer communications, **AND BE IT**

RESOLVED That the hearings be scheduled at accessible times and locations, offer free or readily available parking, be located near major transit routes, provide reasonable accommodations and language

⁷ Mich. State Police, *Power Outages*, MI Ready (last visited July 16, 2026); Pamela Osborne, *Wayne County Children Die from Carbon Monoxide Poisoning After Generator Used During Power Outage*, ClickOnDetroit (July 6, 2026); Kyle Beery, *3 Children Die of Suspected Carbon Monoxide Poisoning in Wayne County*, WILX (July 6, 2026).

Mich. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, *Customer Outage History—Outage Credits*, State of Mich. (last visited July 16, 2026).

⁸ DTE Energy Co., Annual Report (Form 10-K), at 58 (Feb. 17, 2026); Minnah Arshad, *DTE Paid No Federal Income Taxes for 12th Straight Year Despite More Than \$1.5B Profit*, Mich. Advance (June 11, 2026); DTE Energy Co., Definitive Proxy Statement (Schedule 14A), at 47, 58 (Mar. 12, 2026).

⁹ Mich. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, *MPSC Authorizes \$217,380,000 in Additional Revenue for DTE Electric Co. Investments to Boost Reliability, Modernize Aging Grid* (Jan. 23, 2025); Mich. Dep't of Att'y Gen., *DTE Electric Rate Hike Slashed in Half as AG Nessel Helped Save Customers Nearly \$240 Million* (Jan. 24, 2025).

¹⁰ Mich. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, *MPSC Approves DTE Electric Energy Contracts for Data Center with Conditions to Strengthen Protections for Other Customers* (Dec. 18, 2025); Env't L. & Pol'y Ctr., *Michigan Regulators Conditionally Approve DTE's Saline Township Data Center Power Plan* (Dec. 18, 2025).

¹¹ Brian Allnutt, *DTE Energy Ghostwriting Comments to Push \$456 Million Rate Hike*, BridgeDetroit/Planet Detroit (Oct. 21, 2024); Brian Allnutt, *Will DTE Face Consequences for Ghostwritten Rate Case Comments?*, Planet Detroit (Oct. 31, 2024).

¹² Mich. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, *MPSC to Hold Public Hearing Aug. 22 in Detroit on DTE Electric Co.'s Pending Rate Case* (Aug. 4, 2022); Mich. Pub. Serv. Comm'n, *MPSC Spotlight: August 2022* (Aug. 2022).

access, and permit telephone participation for residents who lack reliable internet access; **AND BE IT**

RESOLVED That all written testimony received at the hearings should be transcribed or otherwise preserved and entered into the MPSC case docket as public comments; **AND BE IT**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council requests that the MPSC adopt these requirements as a standing administrative practice applicable to future DTE Electric and DTE Gas rate proceedings; **AND, BE IT**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council further calls upon the MPSC to refrain from using an ex parte process, when considering a utility contract or arrangement that may materially affect residential rates, system reliability, generation requirements, hyperscale data centers, or the allocation of financial risk among customer classes; **AND BE IT**

RESOLVED That if the MPSC determines that it lacks statutory authority to establish these requirements as a standing practice, the Detroit City Council urges the Michigan Legislature and the Governor to enact legislation requiring equivalent public hearing and public participation access protections; **AND BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED That the City Clerk shall transmit certified copies of this resolution to each member of the Michigan Public Service Commission, the Governor of Michigan, the Michigan Attorney General and the members of Detroit's delegation to the Michigan Legislature.