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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: 7/24/2026

RE: **AMENDED RESOLUTION TO PRIORITIZE DEMOLITION PROPERTIES**

City Council Member Gabriela Santiago-Romero has requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) produce a resolution requesting that the Buildings, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED) develop a priority list of properties requiring remediation and demolition.

COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

AMENDED RESOLUTION TO PRIORITIZE DEMOLITION PROPERTIES

WHEREAS The Detroit City Charter requires the City to “provide for the public peace, health and safety of persons within its jurisdictional limits” and states that “the people have a right to expect aggressive action by the City’s officers in seeking to advance, conserve, maintain and protect the integrity of the human, physical and natural resources of this city from encroachment and/or dismantlement;” and

WHEREAS During a recent presentation to City Council’s Public Health & Safety Standing Committee, the Construction and Demolition Department outlined its procedures for planning demolitions of residential and commercial properties; and

WHEREAS Residential and commercial demolitions are either emergency demolitions resulting from an Emergency Demolition Order from the City of Detroit Building Official or Fire Marshall or planned demolitions that are meant to abate City-owned properties to encourage future development; and

WHEREAS The Construction and Demolition Department also oversees fill removal and replacement for properties that have been backfilled with unapproved materials after a demolition, and often contain materials that are hazardous to the public; and

WHEREAS Given the Charter mandate to protect the health and safety of all people within the City of Detroit, it is imperative to take all necessary actions to prioritize the City’s demolition efforts in a manner that considers emergency demolitions and fill removal and replacements that pose imminent public health risks the first and highest priorities when planning demolitions; and

WHEREAS This prioritization is even more crucial currently, as large sources of demolition funding such as the American Rescue Plan Act and Proposal N neighborhood improvement bonds will no longer be available going forward; and

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council requests that the Buildings, Safety, Engineering, and Environmental Department (BSEED) develop a priority list of demolitions that bundles all outstanding properties with the cost and date of scheduled remediation or demolition for properties requiring backfill remediation, emergency demolition, and any other demolition prioritized by properties that pose the most imminent threat to public health and safety;
NOW BE IT FINALLY

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to Mayor Sheffield and to the Director of BSEED.