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TO: The Honorable City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: September 11, 2026

RE: Revised Substitute Resolution Concerning Property Tax Rate Reductions

As directed by the members of the Budget, Finance and Audit Committee on Wednesday, September 9, 2026, to the Legislative Policy Division (LPD), attached is the revision of the proposed substitute resolution concerning property tax reductions as requested by Council Member Angela Whitfield Calloway amending the second-to-last resolved. LPD has provided a copy of the revised substitute resolution for City Council's consideration.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

AMENDED RESOLUTION PROMOTING PROPERTY TAX REDUCTION

SUBMITTED BY COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD CALLOWAY

WHEREAS, Detroit has one of the highest property rate rates in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Detroit City Council and Mayor Mary Sheffield have been seeking ways to provide residents and businesses within Detroit some much needed relief in the property tax rates; and

WHEREAS, The tax millage assessed Detroiters include a debt millage and an operating millage; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit reduced the debt millage through incremental reductions in the property taxes levied to pay down the debt millage placed on property tax bills to fund voter authorized Unlimited Tax General Obligation (UTGO) bonds. The tax millage is reduced as the bonds are extinguished and no additional debt incurred; and

WHEREAS, In 2023, the City of Detroit was able to reduce the debt millage by one mill. In 2024, the City of Detroit was able to reduce the debt millage by one mill. In 2025, the City of Detroit was able to reduce the debt millage by three mills. In 2026, the City of Detroit was able to budget another debt millage reduction of one mill effective July 1, 2026; and

WHEREAS, The reductions in the debt millage allowed relief for residents and businesses; however, additional reductions are needed; and

WHEREAS, The goal of City Council, as announced through this resolution, is to continue tax reductions of one mill each year for the next four years to provide residents and businesses within Detroit with adequate property tax relief; and

WHEREAS, A reduction of the general operating millage may be necessary to achieve the goal of adequate property tax relief; and

RESOLVED, That Detroit City Council hereby sets the goal that the City of Detroit will provide adequate property tax relief for Detroit residents and businesses by reducing the property tax rate by one mill each year for the next four years; and

RESOLVED, That Detroit City Council urges Mayor Mary Sheffield to continue Detroit's current trajectory of paying down the bond debt and reducing the debt millage; and

RESOLVED, That Detroit City Council urges Mayor Mary Sheffield, if necessary, to reduce the operating tax millage to achieve the goals of adequate property tax relief; and

RESOLVED, That, as additional revenue streams are sought and secured, Detroit City Council pledges itself to the reduction of property taxes, through debt service millage or operating tax millage where appropriate, to achieve the goal of adequate property tax relief;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be sent to Mayor Mary Sheffield and the Chief Financial Officer of the City of Detroit for continued adherence to this policy initiative.