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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: October 8, 2026

**RE: RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE CARE AND
MAINTENANCE OF CITY OWNED TREES**

Council Member Scott Benson requested the Legislative Policy Division provide a resolution in support of continued funding for the care and maintenance of city owned trees.

Attached you will find the requested resolution.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER SCOTT BENSON

**A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF CONTINUED FUNDING FOR THE CARE AND
MAINTENANCE OF CITY OWNED TREES**

WHEREAS, regular maintenance, trimming, pruning, and removal of dead, diseased, or hazardous trees and tree branches are necessary to protect public safety, preserve tree health, and prevent damage to streets, sidewalks, utilities, homes, and other public and private property; and

WHEREAS, trees clean the air, reduce urban heat, protect water resources, support wildlife, and provide significant environmental benefits that contribute to the quality of life of residents; and

WHEREAS, properly maintained trees contribute to healthy and attractive neighborhoods, improve tree growth and longevity, support the environment, and are an essential component of an aesthetically appealing urban landscape; and

WHEREAS, trees and green spaces enhance the way residents experience their neighborhoods, providing opportunities for relaxation, outdoor activity, and regular contact with nature, which can contribute to overall well-being; and

WHEREAS, extreme weather events can result in fallen trees and branches, power outages, and significant damage to public and private property, creating potential hazards and risks to the safety of residents; and

WHEREAS, overgrown trees and branches growing near overhead power lines can contribute to electrical outages, and regular trimming and maintenance can help reduce the frequency and duration of power outages and improve public safety; and

WHEREAS, continued funding for the City's tree maintenance and trimming program allows the City to address hazardous conditions in a timely manner, maintain healthy trees, and preserve safe, attractive, and accessible public spaces; and

WHEREAS, the Detroit City Council recognizes the long-term value of maintaining and expanding our urban tree portfolio for the benefit of current and future residents; and

WHEREAS, the Detroit City Council supports and encourages continued adequate funding through the General Services Department for the maintenance, trimming, pruning, and, when necessary, removal and replacement of trees located on public property and within

the City's rights-of-way in addition to separately sourced funding for the maintenance and removal of damaged trees due to catastrophic weather events **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

RESOLVED, that continued funding for tree maintenance, trimming, pruning, removal, and replacement shall remain an important component of the City's annual budget priorities