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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: October 7, 2026

RE: **RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION REGULATING ELECTRIC
BICYCLES**

Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution in support of Michigan Senate Bill 1156 and Michigan House Bill 6166.

Please reach out to our office if you require any further assistance.

COUNCIL MEMBER ANGELA WHITFIELD-CALLOWAY

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LEGISLATION REGULATING ELECTRIC BICYCLES

- WHEREAS;** The popularity of electric bicycles (e-bikes) has increased significantly in recent years, where the number of e-bikes sold in the U.S. quadrupled to over 1 million from 2019 to 2022, and sales continue to surpass 1 million units per year; and
- WHEREAS;** The increase in e-bike adoption is also correlated with an increase in related injuries, as the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) found that e-bikes and other micromobility devices like e-scooters are associated with increasing emergency room visits, which rose from 37,300 in 2017 to 149,100 in 2024;¹ and
- WHEREAS;** CPSC also found that these injuries are disproportionately impacting children ages 5 to 14, who represent 12% of the population but account for 27% of micromobility-related emergency room visits;² and
- WHEREAS;** Michigan has experienced this increase in serious injuries and fatalities,³ and some Michigan doctors have expressed their serious concerns regarding a rise in severe injuries to children riding e-bikes, including spinal and brain injuries;⁴ and
- WHEREAS;** Despite the widespread popularity of e-bikes, the federal government considers e-bikes to be consumer products rather than motor vehicles, and the lack of federal regulation has left states and municipalities to determine how to address the growing public safety issues; and
- WHEREAS;** The Michigan Vehicle Code currently only provides a minimum age of 14 to operate a class 3 electric bicycle, which have a motor that is able to reach a maximum of 28 miles per hour where class 1 and 2 electric bicycles can reach a maximum of 20 miles per hour, and there is no minimum age requirement to operate class 1 and 2 bicycles and no helmet requirement for e-bikes in general; and
- WHEREAS;** Senate Bill 1156 would prohibit any individual under the age of 14 to operate an electric bicycle on a public road, sidewalk, or trail and would only allow individuals between 14 and 18 years of age to operate on a public road if they wear a helmet that meets federal standards and if they have written permission or are being supervised by a parent or legal guardian;⁵ and
- WHEREAS;** House Bill 6166 would require individuals under the age of 18 to obtain a special restricted license to operate class 2 and 3 e-bikes or micromobility devices that have a maximum speed of over 20 miles per hour, and also requires individuals under the age of 19 to wear a

¹ [US News and World Report article discussing the increase in e-bike injuries](#); citing [Consumer Product Safety Commission study on micromobility products-related deaths and injuries](#)

² *Id.*

³ [Detroit Free Press Article discussing a fatal e-bike crash in Ferndale](#); [WXYZ Detroit article discussing two teens who were critically injured on an e-bike in Bloomfield Township](#); [WNEM 5 article discussing a 15 year old involved in a fatal e-bike crash](#)

⁴ [Click On Detroit article including interviews with doctors concerned about e-bike safety](#)

⁵ [Current draft of Michigan Senate Bill 1156](#)

properly fitted and fastened helmet when operating a micromobility device on a public thoroughfare; and

WHEREAS; The City of Detroit is committed to protecting the health, safety, and welfare of the public on all public rights of way, particularly our youth, which the Detroit City Charter identifies as “our most precious resource;” **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED; That the Detroit City Council hereby strongly urges the Michigan legislature to pass Michigan Senate Bill 1156 and Michigan House Bill 6166; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED; That the Detroit City Clerk’s Office provide a copy of this resolution to Mayor Sheffield, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, and the Detroit delegations of both the Michigan State House and Senate.