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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: October 2, 2026

RE: **Safe and Secure Private Restroom Facilities for North Wing of Council Offices**

Council Member Renata Miller requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) provide a report regarding the feasibility of designing and constructing a safe and secure private restroom to serve City Council offices located in the north wing of the 13th floor of the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center, an area commonly referred to as Council auxiliary offices.

Prior to the early 1990's, this area of the 13th floor was occupied by the Detroit City Clerk's Office and housed several of its functions. In the early 1990's, this section of the floor underwent an extensive renovation that converted the space to additional City Council offices. At that time, the addition of restroom facilities to serve Council Members and staff on the north side of the floor was not included in the renovation.

On August 11, 2026, LPD participated in a virtual meeting hosted by the Detroit Building Authority to discuss the proposed project. During the meeting, representatives discussed possible scenarios for constructing restroom facilities on the north side of the 13th floor.

LPD communicated Council Member Miller's concerns to the Building Authority regarding the lack of privacy and the inconvenience caused by restroom facilities not being located in close proximity to the Council offices on the north side of the 13th floor. LPD also raised concerns regarding the safety and security implications of requiring Council Members and staff to utilize public restroom facilities.

During the discussion of the feasibility of the project, one potential obstacle identified was the location of the water source necessary to support new restroom facilities. The water source is located on the south side

of the 13th floor, behind the bank of elevators. As a result, extending the necessary plumbing infrastructure to the north side of the floor could present additional logistical challenges and increase the cost of constructing restroom facilities in that area. However, the general consensus among those participating in the meeting was that the project could be accomplished with the appropriate level of funding.

As a follow up to the meeting, LPD contacted the Detroit Building Authority and was informed that if given the go ahead, the project would be handled under the leadership of the Detroit Wayne Joint Building Authority (DWJBA), which owns and manages the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center.

LPD was further advised that, in order to move the project forward, the City Council, acting as a body, would need to submit a work order to the DWJBA. The DWJBA would then provide a proposal outlining the professional and construction services necessary to complete the project.

LPD recommends that the Office of the Council President be included in further discussions regarding the proposed restroom facilities and that the Council, as a body determines how it wishes to proceed. Should the Council decide to move forward with construction of new restroom facilities, the necessary funding could be allocated as part of the upcoming budget process.

Please do not hesitate to contact our office if we can be of further assistance.