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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: November 16, 2026

RE: **RESOLUTION RENAMING THE "CLIMATE RESILIENCE TASK FORCE" AS THE "CLIMATE AND DISASTER RECOVERY TASK FORCE"**

Council Member Latisha Johnson requested the Legislative Policy Division provide a resolution renaming the Climate Resilience Task Force to the Climate and Disaster Recovery Task Force.

Attached you will find the requested resolution.

BY COUNCIL MEMBER LATISHA JOHNSON

RESOLUTION RENAMING THE CLIMATE RESILIENCE TASK FORCE AS THE CLIMATE AND DISASTER RECOVERY TASK FORCE

WHEREAS the impact of climate-related disasters is often intensified in urban environments due to the interconnected nature of infrastructure systems, population density, cultural dynamics, and economic activities, placing cities and their residents at heightened risk; and

WHEREAS racially and socioeconomically marginalized communities disproportionately experience the adverse impacts of climate change, including storms, flooding, extreme heat, and the increasing prevalence of climate-related infectious diseases, further exacerbating existing health and economic disparities; and

WHEREAS with the majority of the world's population residing in urban areas, and urban populations projected to continue growing, cities must prioritize comprehensive strategies to strengthen resilience and improve preparedness for, response to, and recovery from climate-related disasters, including extreme heat, flooding, and drought; and

WHEREAS Black and Brown communities face disproportionate disaster-related vulnerabilities, including greater economic hardship, delayed recovery, and barriers to accessing federal disaster assistance; and

WHEREAS federal disaster assistance programs have historically provided inequitable levels of funding and delayed assistance to Black and Brown communities, further exacerbating economic and racial inequities during post-disaster recovery; and

WHEREAS the City of Detroit is particularly vulnerable to climate-induced disasters, including flooding, and other severe weather events, exacerbating the existing social, economic, and environmental inequities; and

WHEREAS Detroit's older adult population faces heightened risks during climate-related disasters due to age related health concerns, limited mobility, and fixed incomes, restricting their ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS cities play a critical role in reducing disaster risks, integrating climate change adaptation, emergency preparedness, and disaster recovery planning; and

WHEREAS implementing climate-resilient policies, infrastructure investments, and coordinated disaster preparedness strategies at the local level is essential to mitigating the impacts of extreme weather events and ensuring equitable disaster preparedness for all Detroit residents; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED that the Detroit City Council hereby renames the "Climate Resilience Task Force" as the "Climate and Disaster Recovery Task Force", with the purpose of developing and advancing policies, programs, and strategies that strengthen climate resilience, disaster preparedness, and recovery efforts throughout the City of Detroit. The Task Force shall promote resilient infrastructure and climate adaptation strategies that prioritize the health, safety, and well-being of all Detroit residents through policy leadership, budget alignment, and cross-sector collaboration, while advancing equitable outcomes and public accountability; **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED that the Detroit City Council further establishes the Climate and Disaster Recovery Task Force, effective immediately continuing until December 31, 2027, to improve disaster preparedness and recovery resources, promote the equitable distribution of disaster relief funding and assistance, and address racial disparities and disaster response and recovery efforts; **BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED the Climate and Disaster Recovery Task Force shall establish working groups focused on Communications and Engagement; Climate Risk and Readiness; Recovery and Resource Coordination; and Infrastructure Resilience and Mitigations; **BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED that the Climate and Disaster Recovery Task Force will be chaired by Council Member Latisha Johnson and may include other City Council Members, staff from relevant city departments such as the Office of Sustainability, Detroit Homeland Security & Emergency Management, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department, and the Detroit Health Department; representatives from county, state, and federal agencies, including the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE), and the Wayne County Office of Emergency Management; community-based organizations focused on climate resilience and environmental justice; academic institutions with expertise in climate science, public health and urban planning, and representative from neighborhoods disproportionately impacted by climate-related disasters.