

**RESOLUTION URGING DETROIT WATER AND SEWERAGE DEPARTMENT
(DWSD) AND GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY (GLWA)
TO WAIVE LATE FEES**

By Council President Brenda Jones

WHEREAS, The Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD) is the department of City government that is responsible for retail residential water and sewerage services within the City of Detroit; and

WHEREAS, The Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) was created in the course of the City of Detroit's bankruptcy proceedings in 2014, undergoing a lengthy transition period involving extensive shared services agreements with the Detroit Water and Sewerage Department (DWSD), and commencing independent operations in 2016; and

WHEREAS, After over a decade of public controversies regarding unaffordable water rates and human rights violations by shutting off water to residential customers and families who are unable to pay the full rates because of poverty, in March 2020 Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer ordered reconnection of all residential water service in order to deal with the deadly health impacts of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic; and

WHEREAS, After such a long delay in developing policies that respect the human right to water and sanitation for the City's most vulnerable residents, there are many unresolved billing matters that in the past have been subject to various "late fees" for reconnection or continuation of water and sewerage services; and

WHEREAS, In addition to the past history of shut offs and human rights violations, the economic consequences of the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic have suddenly deprived many of these residential customers and their families of their incomes, threatening further hardships and injustices if existing and potential future late fees are charged; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT The Detroit City Council urgently calls for waiver of any and all supposed late fees for residential water or sewer services, shut offs, connections and other services; and BE IT FURTHER

RESOLVED That copies of this resolution shall be provided to Mayor Mike Duggan, Governor Gretchen Whitmer, County Executives David Coulter, Warren Evans and Mark Hackel, the boards of DWSD and GLWA, media representatives and affordable water advocates.