

**RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONER AND  
CIVIL RIGHTS WARRIOR ROY LEVY WILLIAMS**

WHEREAS, Roy Levy Williams has a storied history in civil rights that began in the Detroit area, spanned two terms as a Police Commissioner, soared to international heights as he worked for social justice and civil rights for all people; and earned him many recognitions, including the Urban League's Distinguished Warrior honor; and

WHEREAS, His impressive record includes pivotal roles during great moments of change, where he worked across political spectrums to create opportunities, or to take advantage of opportunities, to uplift communities and people. Those roles included serving as Special Assistant for Urban Affairs to Governor William Milliken, Public Affairs Executive for Chrysler Corporation, and Vice President of the Highland Park Chamber of Commerce. His tenure as Chair of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority from 1984-2000 showcased his passion for livable communities and affordable housing – which had shaped his studies at Wayne State University and the University of Manchester in England – and made him a global force in planning and development; and

WHEREAS, The civil rights arena benefited most from his prodigious talents. In 1978, he began six years as Detroit Urban League President. In 1984, he joined the national board of the NAACP. As an esteemed Trustee and Board Member for four decades, he helped steer the NAACP into the modern era, contributed to countless civil rights issues, and advanced social justice in America; and

WHEREAS, Police reform and civilian oversight of law enforcement held great interest for this civil rights warrior, who was so respected that Mayor Coleman A. Young appointed him to the Board twice. Even with the demands of his many endeavors, Police Commissioner Williams dedicated himself to improving public safety and making the Police Department reflective of the community and its values. He was known to share wisdom and criticism as he served from 1981-86 and from 1989-1994. The Board's framework of community-led police oversight has long benefited from Police Commissioner Williams, whose passing is deeply mourned by Detroit and the civil rights community.

Therefore be it  
RESOLVED,

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the people of the great City of Detroit, salutes the lifelong contributions and public service of former Police Commissioner Roy Levy Williams. The Board awards this resolution posthumously as a permanent testament of the gratitude for the lasting influence and achievements of this irreplaceable civil rights warrior.