

# DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS RESOLUTION

## FOR THE PLACEMENT OF A MORATORIUM ON THE USE OF FACIAL RECOGNITION SOFTWARE BY THE DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT

- WHEREAS** Detroit City Charter states in part *Sec. 7-806. Duties of the Chief of Police...The Chief of Police is the Chief Executive of the police department and shall administer the department consistent with the policies, rules, and regulations established by the Board...*; AND
- WHEREAS** The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners has an oversight responsibility to ensure that instances of law enforcement injustice do not occur or repeat; AND
- WHEREAS** The false and unjust arrest of Porcha Woodruff on February 16, 2023 is the sixth reported instance of persons being falsely accused of a crime in conjunction with the use of facial recognition technology; all of whom being black. This is the third known wrongful arrest by the Detroit Police Department in conjunction with the use of the technology in three years; AND
- WHEREAS** The subsequent failure of the Detroit Police Department to accept responsibility for the false arrest of Ms. Woodruff at the time of its occurrence and immediately address the policy failures that preceded are an embarrassment to both the department and the City of Detroit; and serve to undermine trust in the fairness of our criminal justice system; AND
- WHEREAS** The aforementioned injustices demonstrate the insufficiency of the Detroit Police Department's policies governing the use of Facial Recognition technology. These injustices also demonstrate the fundamental unsuitability of the technology in a criminal justice context without strict safeguards to ensure the safety of the public and the absolute protection of civil rights; AND
- WHEREAS** The current reporting that The Detroit Police Department provides to The Detroit Board of Police Commissioners is insufficient for the Board to effectively and proactively identify if the Facial Recognition technology is being used in accordance to the Board approved policy and avoids infringement on civil liberties.

### NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

**That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners hereby rescinds its approval of the Detroit Police Department Directive 307.5 Facial Recognition; and places a one year moratorium on any use of Facial Recognition technology by the Detroit Police Department.**

### NOW, THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:

**That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners requests a full investigation into the effectiveness of Facial Recognition technology, its use by DPD, governing policies, monitoring, and reporting. Such an investigation shall be facilitated by an independent agency of the Board's choosing.**

### NOW, THEREFORE BE IT EVEN FURTHER RESOLVED:

**That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners calls on the Detroit City Council to cancel all contracts with Facial Recognition technology vendors pending the aforementioned investigation and the implementation of Board approved policies, monitoring, and reporting that effectively prevent further injustices.**

VOTED AND APPROVED BY THE DETROIT BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS ON \_\_\_\_\_