

**RESOLUTION HONORING
THOMAS FERREBEE
POSTHUMOUSLY**

WHEREAS Thomas Ferreebe was born on January 24, 1937 in Detroit and became a star athlete at Detroit public schools before graduating from Hamtramck High School. He attended Iowa State University on athletic scholarship and played on a legendary Cyclone football team; and

WHEREAS After college, Mr. Ferreebe became the first African American teacher at his Hamtramck alma mater in 1961. He later joined Ford Motor Company and worked in the late 1960s at the Ford Rouge Office Building. As a man dedicated to human rights, Mr. Ferreebe became concerned about discrimination and unfair employment practices at Ford. His leadership in bringing together concerned workers helped result in an action plan, a meeting with Henry Ford II, and important changes; and

WHEREAS Mr. Ferreebe's work in equal employment rights drew the attention of Detroit leaders, who tapped him to serve as the civilian Commander of Recruiting for the Detroit Police Department. Commander Ferreebe's role was pivotal to reforms championed under the 1974 City Charter, Mayor Coleman Young, and the Board of Police Commissioners for equal employment and promotional opportunities for blacks and for women. Commander Ferreebe also was a proud member of the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement. His public service continued as director of the Detroit House of Corrections, in executive posts at Wayne County, and as an entrepreneur; and

WHEREAS, On November 24, 2020, former Commander Ferreebe passed on to glory with a remarkable legacy of civic and community service. The Board of Police Commissioners extends condolences to his beloved family and friends as they celebrate his life, including his renowned status as a regular blood donor.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, awards this resolution posthumously to Thomas Ferreebe for his key role as Commander of Recruiting in a vital era of reform, and for his years of dedicated civic and public service. His leadership, integrity, and standard of commitment to the City of Detroit and its citizens merit our highest regards.