

**Resolution Honoring
Detroit Police Department Harbormaster Unit**

- WHEREAS** The Detroit Police Department Harbormaster Unit proudly engages with the community and plays a critical role in ensuring that everyone's safety comes first along the Detroit River. With both marine and land-based patrols, the unit is committed to protecting residents, visitors and eventgoers across the River walk and surrounding waterways. Coordinating with local, state and federal partners or responding swiftly to emergencies, the Harbormaster Unit serves as a visible, vigilant presence dedicated to safeguarding one of Detroit's most cherished and active spaces. The Unit is one of the oldest specialized units dating back to its founding in 1863; and
- WHEREAS** Rooted in more than 160 years of service, the unit has evolved to meet the complex demands of policing a major international waterway. Currently, the unit operates with two supervisors and thirteen corporals, split across two daily shifts: 7:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m., ensuring continuous coverage of the riverfront. In addition to regular marine and land-based patrol operations, the unit maintains a part-time Dive Team. As a specialized extension of the Harbormaster Unit, the Dive Team is trained in underwater search and recovery operations under often challenging and hazardous conditions. Whether responding to accidental drownings, criminal investigations, or lost property incidents, the team plays a critical role in bringing closure to families and supporting broader investigative efforts. Their work is highly technical, requiring precision, endurance, and coordination with other law enforcement and emergency agencies; and
- WHEREAS** The Harbormaster Unit not only patrols the Detroit River within city limits but also responds to life-threatening emergencies beyond Detroit's jurisdiction when necessary. In such critical situations, the unit operates in close coordination with regional, national, and international partners, including the U.S. Coast Guard, the Windsor Police Department, and the Wayne County Sheriff Marine Division. Collaboration with additional state and federal agencies is conducted upon request and with proper authorization from the Chief of Police. The unit's capabilities are further enhanced by the marine mobility of specialized teams such as the Detroit Police Special Response Team and Bomb Squad, which can be rapidly deployed by watercraft to address high-risk incidents or secure hazardous scenes along the riverfront; and
- WHEREAS** The Harbormaster Unit maintains a strong and visible presence along the Detroit Riverwalk, ensuring public safety in and around some of the city's most popular destinations—including the Aretha Franklin Amphitheater, Cullen Plaza, Robert Valade Park, and large-scale events like the North American International Auto Show, just to name a few. Their presence not only enhances security but also promotes a safe, family-friendly environment along one of Detroit's most vibrant and iconic corridors. The Detroit Police Department Harbormaster Unit plays an essential role in preserving safety, order, and accessibility along the Detroit River and its nationally recognized River walk.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit, recognizes and honors the contributions and commitment to excellence in public service of the Detroit Police Department Harbormaster Unit. The display of unwavering community spirit has improved the quality of life for the citizens of Detroit.

We thank and congratulate you.