

**RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONER
ELIZABETH “BETTY” BROOKS, Posthumously**

WHEREAS Elizabeth Brooks, who outwardly looked petite, had a mighty spirit, and she made a gigantic impact on Detroit, a city that the North Carolina native made her home. During decades of philanthropy, civic leadership, and community service, she touched the lives of residents in Detroit and across Michigan, and left indelible marks on numerous institutions and organizations, including the Board of Commissioners; and

WHEREAS Police Commissioner Brooks never got involved in anything unless she could help make it better. During her 2015-2020 appointment by Mayor Mike Duggan, she took on the Police Department’s challenge in hiring and retaining officers. She became an enthusiastic booster of the Detroit Police Department, police recruiting, and competitive salaries for officers. Her leadership helped spread recruiting to churches, street fairs, block clubs, and other community events. At every meeting or social gathering, she implored everyone to remember Detroit needed the best people to become police officers, and better pay to keep them. Her successful efforts, along with her abundant pride in the City and the Police Department, even inspired a grandson to pursue a career in law enforcement; and

WHEREAS A respected philanthropist, her prowess as a fundraiser benefited the Police Department and the Board. Police Commissioner Brooks delivered a major grant from General Motors to fund Drive to Thrive, which provided free drivers education training to Detroit Public Schools students who also learned from officers what to do in traffic stops. In 2019, she helped build civic partnerships and sponsorships for a national celebration of Detroit’s 45th Anniversary for the Board and civilian oversight; and

WHEREAS, Her support continued after her term, and she delighted in the Board holding community meetings at her beloved Sacred Heart Catholic Church. Part of an international power couple with her husband William “Bill” Brooks, she was known for greeting everyone with the same warm and welcoming manner – and a “just call me Betty” smile; and

WHEREAS, Former Police Commissioner Brooks recently passed away at age 90. To the Board joins with the community in extending condolences to her family and friends, who will gather at Sacred Heart to celebrate her remarkable journey and life on Tuesday, December 23, 2025.

THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED The Board of Police Commissioners awards this resolution posthumously in honor of the many significant and lasting contributions of former Police Commissioner Elizabeth “Betty” Brooks, whose dedication and commitment to the City of Detroit and its residents merit our highest regards.