

Resolution Honoring Police Commissioner Linda D. Bernard

Whereas, Linda D. Bernard has long been a trailblazer and history maker. Her many achievements include being the first African American to earn a Master of Law degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School and the only African-American attorney to argue and win three precedent-setting cases in the Michigan Supreme Court. President Ronald Reagan once recognized her at the White House as one of the 100 Outstanding Small Businesspersons in America; and

Whereas, Police Commissioner Bernard's service on the Board of Police Commissioners also is distinguished in its 50-year history of civilian oversight. During an impressive legal career, she once held the position of General Counsel to the Board. She became the first former Board staff member to serve on the Board when District 2 residents elected her to fill a vacancy in 2020 then re-elected her in 2021. Additionally, her sister Sharon Bernard Miller served from 1979-1981 under an appointment by Mayor Coleman A. Young, making the Bernard sisters the only siblings to serve on the Board of Police Commissioners; and

Whereas, She has drawn upon her extensive legal expertise at weekly Board meetings and especially in serving as a past member and current chair of the Policy Committee. Starting in 2024, Policy Committee Chair Bernard led the Board's vital Charter-mandated work with the Police Department to review over 100 policies and special orders, using her keen legal eye to ensure Constitutional protections and effective police practices; and

Whereas, Like Lady Justice, who holds a sword and set of scales, Commissioner Bernard weighs her actions for civilian oversight and public safety. She is known to object to biased policing and unpaid officer suspensions with equal passion. Such legal fervor has made her the recipient of more than 100 awards, including the Michigan Legislature and City of Detroit resolutions and the Michigan Bar Association's highest honor, the Champion of Justice Award. As she completes her elected term representing District 2, Police Commissioner Bernard will continue as a multi-media personality and a formidable legal eagle. Therefore, be it

Resolved, The Board of Police Commissioners awards this resolution in recognition of the dedicated and diligent service by Police Commissioner Linda D. Bernard, whose dedication and commitment to civilian oversight, the City of Detroit, and residents merit our highest regards.

We salute you Commissioner Bernard for a job well done and wish you continued success in the future.