

RESOLUTION HONORING
RETIRED SERGEANT NATHANIEL RUCKER
POSTHUMOUSLY

WHEREAS, Nathaniel Rucker pursued his interest in serving the community and in criminal justice by applying to the Detroit Metropolitan Police Academy at a pivotal time in the city's history. Upon graduation, he was appointed to the Detroit Police Department on July 14, 1969, and

WHEREAS, Police Officer Rucker excelled in his assignments and duties as he served the residents and communities with fairness and integrity. As Detroit still sought reforms to address the racism and police brutality at the root of the 1967 Rebellion, Police Officer Rucker made a priority of providing public safety while building trust and credibility with residents. He exhibited excellence in leadership and earned promotion to the rank of Sergeant on January 14, 1976. Sergeant Rucker's assignments included the Third Precinct from August 15, 1980 to October 22, 1984; and

WHEREAS, His next assignment was to the Office of the Chief Investigator, where Sergeant Rucker worked closely with the Board of Police Commissioners for 15 years. The 1974 City Charter had established the Board to provide revolutionary, community-led oversight of the Police Department and gave the new Board robust powers over complaints about police officers. With his dedication to having a Police Department that made all residents proud, Sergeant Rucker diligently worked to achieve the most effective process for taking, investigating, and reporting on complaints about police abuse and policy violations, which helped the Board and Department address problems and make important changes; and

WHEREAS, During his 30-year career, Sergeant Rucker was the deserving recipient of numerous accolades from area residents, as well as praise from his peers and superiors who considered him a consummate law enforcement professional. After retiring in 1999, he continued to work with residents and community groups for neighborhood safety and Detroit's progress. Sadly, retired Sergeant Nathaniel Rucker recently passed away. The Board of Police Commissioners extends sincere condolences to his family and friends, who will celebrate his remarkable life on January 12, 2026.

Therefore, be it

RESOLVED The Board of Police Commissioners awards this resolution posthumously in honor of retired Sergeant Nathaniel Rucker for his contributions in advancing civilian oversight and his lasting impact on Detroit and residents during 30 years with the Detroit Police Department. His many contributions to public safety and community oversight of law enforcement merit our highest regards.