

**RESOLUTION HONORING FORMER POLICE COMMISSIONER
SHARON ELAINE BERNARD, ESQ. (POSTHUMOUSLY)**

WHEREAS, Sharon Elaine Bernard made a vital impact to the communities she served in every role she held in her lifetime, including the pivotal role of a Detroit Police Commissioner. With a reputation for thorough preparation and integrity, she demonstrated leadership by example and received numerous awards for her decades of leadership and commitment; and

WHEREAS, A native Detroiter, she moved to Arkansas after marriage, where she obtained her law degree from the University of Arkansas and became the first Black woman admitted to the State Bar of Arkansas. Then known as Sharon Bernard Miller, she became a renowned civil rights activist and served as an Arkansas delegate to the White House Conference on Aging, as well as on the Arkansas Governor's Commission on the Status of Women; and

WHEREAS, Upon her return to Detroit, she began a distinguished 30-year career at Michigan National Bank. In 1979, Mayor Coleman A. Young appointed her to the Board of Police Commissioners. She served with distinction and became Board Chairperson during a critical period of reforms for the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, Former Police Commissioner Bernard served on a myriad of professional and civic organizations, often as chairperson of the board of directors. She served as Chairwoman of the Detroit Urban League and worked tirelessly as a friend, fundraiser, and mentor for the benefit of numerous organizations. Former Commissioner Bernard leaves behind an outstanding legacy of unwavering commitment to issues affecting civil rights, children, and women. She also holds a unique place in City history, along with former District 2 Police Commissioner Linda Bernard, for siblings who served on the Board; and

WHEREAS, The Board, along with the community, extends its sincerest condolences to the family and friends of former Police Commissioner Sharon Bernard, as her life is celebrated at the Cathedral of the Most Blessed Sacrament on Friday, May 8, 2026.

**THEREFORE, BE IT
RESOLVED,** That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking on behalf of the citizens of the great City of Detroit, hereby awards this resolution posthumously to former Police Commissioner Sharon Elaine Bernard for her dedication to both the public and private sectors, her unwavering commitment to the City of Detroit and its citizens merits our highest regard.