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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: February 16, 2017

RE: RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICE
AWARD IN THE NAME OF DELORES BENNETT

Council Member Mary Sheffield requested that, in honor of Ms. Delores Bennett, the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a resolution to convey special honor upon community leaders that have demonstrated leadership, longevity in service to others and unwavering commitment to community in the city of Detroit with the high honor of the "Delores Bennett Community Warrior Award".

Attached, please find our draft of the aforementioned resolution.

Please contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

Attachment

RESOLUTION BY COUNCIL MEMBER MARY SHEFFFIELD

RESOLUTION TO CREATE A CITY COUNCIL COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD IN THE NAME OF DELORES BENNETT

WHEREAS, In the spirit of the old African proverb, it takes a village to raise a child, over 40 years ago, Delores Bennett founded the North End Youth Improvement Council (NEYIC), for the purpose of strengthening the families in the community by engendering a sense of values, hope, self-esteem, self-worth and self-respect in young people who live in the Detroit community which encompasses an area roughly bounded by West Grand Boulevard to the south, Chicago Boulevard to the north, the Lodge Expressway to the west and the Chrysler Expressway to the east, known as the North End.; and

WHEREAS, Under its Executive Director and Founder Delores Bennett, NEYIC serviced countless thousands of youth and adults through its programs over the years in Detroit, in particular, its Adopt-A-Child Christmas Program, the true impact of the NEYIC has no boundaries; and

WHEREAS, Through the community leadership of Delores Bennett, gangs have disbanded, negative energy was redirected into positive outcomes and lives have been permanently changed and spared. Her Adopt a Child Program alone has served thousands of families with its annual Christmas program with thousands of partners both individuals, corporations and foundations; and

WHEREAS, On February 6, 2017, Detroiters mourned the loss of a true city champion, when Delores Bennett made her transition. Her legacy includes advocating the City of Detroit under the Coleman Young administration to develop a comprehensive drug treatment strategy for the city of Detroit. The end result was the first drug treatment program for crack addicted individuals, which became a national model; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, On this, the 21st day of February 2017, the Detroit City Council on a local level in the city of Detroit, hereby establishes the “Delores Bennett Community Warrior Award”, to convey honor on select individuals for leadership, longevity in service to others and unwavering commitment to community; **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

RESOLVED, The Detroit City Council posthumously names Delores Bennett as the first recipient of the “Delores Bennett Community Warrior Award” for her unmatched community service in the city of Detroit for over 40 years and for her benefit to the youth of Detroit and the community as a whole.