

City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

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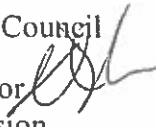
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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division

DATE: September 7, 2018

**RE: RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE RETENTION AND TO IMPROVE
OPERATION OF THE ARETHA LOUISE FRANKLIN AMPHITHEATER
FORMERLY NAMED THE CHENE PARK AMPHITHEATER**

On July 30, 2018 the Council President Pro Tem Mary Sheffield requested that the Legislative Policy Division draft a resolution to support the efforts to retain and to improve operation of the Chene Park Amphitheater.

Attached, please find our draft of the resolution.

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

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM MARY SHEFFIELD

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE RETENTION AND TO IMPROVE OPERATION OF THE ARETHA LOUISE FRANKLIN AMPHITHEATER FORMERLY NAMED THE CHENE PARK AMPHITHEATER

WHEREAS, The mission of the Detroit City Council is to promote the economic, cultural and physical welfare of Detroit's citizens through Charter-mandated legislative functions; and

WHEREAS, On August 31, 2018, during the funeral for Ms. Aretha Louise Franklin, Mayor Duggan, announced a proposal to permanently change the name of Chene Park to the Aretha Louise Franklin Amphitheater (AFLA) in honor of Aretha Franklin; the internationally acclaimed vocalist known the world over as the "Queen of Soul"; and

WHEREAS, On September 4, 2018, during City Council Formal Session, the entire City Council unanimously approved a resolution to permanently change the name of Chene Park, to the Aretha Louise Franklin Amphitheater; and

WHEREAS, Also on September 4, 2018, Council President Pro Tem Mary Sheffield inquired about the future of the amphitheater, amidst reports that the amphitheater could possibly be moved downtown to Hart Plaza. Mayor Duggan responded to Council President Pro Tem Mary Sheffield and enthusiastically stated, "*that the Aretha Franklin Amphitheater is not moving as long as I'm the mayor*"; and

WHEREAS, The City's east riverfront is dotted with proposed economic development projects to address the increase in demand for residential and commercial land uses in this area. It only stands to reason that retaining and improving the Aretha Louise Franklin Amphitheater would complement proposed future development plans to increase the aesthetics and walkability in this area; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Duggan acknowledged that physical improvements are needed to the 30-year-old park. Entertainers as well as park goers have strongly suggested improvements in acoustics, parking and infrastructure, in addition to addressing a number of deferred maintenance items; and

WHEREAS, In order for ALFA to reach its potential as the jewel that it was envisioned to be, the City must promptly invest sufficient capital dollars in this facility to improve the overall physical character in order to encourage investment and increase stakeholder satisfaction before the proposed renaming and dedication ceremony tentatively scheduled for late spring of 2019; and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, That Detroit City Council hereby supports the strong commitment that the Mayor has expressed in maintaining the ALFA in its present location and strongly encourage the City to fund all the necessary improvements to the facility in order to continue as a treasured institution within our community and as a dynamic

driver of economic development and improved quality of life for residents on the lower east side of the City of Detroit; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution shall be delivered to the Mayor's Offices, to the management of the Aretha Franklin Foundation, Ms. Shahida Mausi, president of The Right Productions and to applicable community stakeholders and various media outlets.