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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: April 23, 2026

RE: **RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK**

City Council Member Lat has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution recognizing May 4-8, 2026 as Air Quality Awareness Week.

Please contact our office if your require any further assistance.

A Resolution by Council Member Latisha Johnson

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING AIR QUALITY AWARENESS WEEK

WHEREAS Clean air is essential to the health and well-being of all individuals, communities and ecosystems; and

WHEREAS Since the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) first recognized Air Quality Awareness Week over two decades ago, the week has been recognized across the country as a time to educate the public on the importance of protecting our air quality and to promote actions that improve air quality; and

WHEREAS As a city that was historically shaped and structured around industrial manufacturing, Detroit continues to reconcile its industrial roots with modern understandings of the harmful effects of air pollutants on human health; and

WHEREAS The Metro Detroit area received an F in the American Lung Association's most recent State of the Air report, ranking 11th-worst nationally for short-term particle pollution and 9th for year-round fine particulate pollution;¹ and

WHEREAS Exposure to air pollution is causally linked to multiple negative health outcomes including cardiovascular disease, cancer development, respiratory illness, and stroke;² and

WHEREAS Many forms of air pollution pose a significantly higher risk for the elderly, children, and people with chronic respiratory illnesses such as asthma;³ and

WHEREAS Unfortunately, in the last year the EPA has engaged in the most significant rollbacks of air pollution regulation in U.S. history, including relaxing air pollution limits for fossil fuel-fired power plants, which is expected to have drastic consequences for air quality and lung health;⁴ and

WHEREAS Air Quality Awareness week emphasizes the importance of working together to improve air quality and protect public health, while recognizing the interconnectedness of air quality, climate change, transportation, and environmental justice; and

WHEREAS All individuals, businesses, and governments are stakeholders with an important role to play in improving air quality through reducing emissions, improving energy efficiency, supporting clean energy initiatives, and staying informed about air quality levels through tools like the Air Quality Index;⁵ **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council hereby recognizes May 4-9, 2026 as Air Quality Awareness Week; **NOW BE IT FURTHER**

¹ <https://www.lung.org/getmedia/32f0646d-c5de-4501-b0ac-07cd63c974d4/State-of-the-Air-2026-Report.pdf>

² Keswani, A., Akselrod, H., & Anenberg, S. C. (2022). Health and Clinical Impacts of Air Pollution and Linkages with Climate Change. NEJM Evidence, 1(7), EVIDra2200068. <https://doi.org/10.1056/EVIDra2200068>

³ Simoni, M., Baldacci, S., Maio, S., Cerrai, S., Sarno, G., & Viegi, G. (2015). Adverse effects of outdoor pollution in the elderly. Journal of Thoracic Disease, 7(1). <https://doi.org/10.3978/j.issn.2072-1439.2014.12.10>

⁴ <https://www.lung.org/blog/powerplant-emissions-rollback>

⁵ <https://www.airnow.gov/aqi/>

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Council encourages all members of the public to participate in the various community events for Air Quality Awareness Week, which are listed at <https://cleartheairmi.org/events/>; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to the Mayor, the Detroit Health Department, Clear the Air, Detroiters Working for Environmental Justice, Eastside Community Network, the Great Lakes Environmental Law Center, Just Air, the Green Door Initiative, Michigan Climate Action Network, Michigan Environmental Justice Coalition, the Michigan Environmental Council, and Southwest Detroit Environmental Vision.