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TO: Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David D. Whitaker
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: May 26, 2021

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF USPS AND THE DETROIT
RESIDENTS THEY SERVE**

Councilmember Roy McCalister, Jr., requested that the Legislative Policy Division to draft a resolution in support of the United States Postal Service (USPS) employees as they appear to be overworked.

Attached, please find our draft of the resolution and contact us if we can be of any further assistance.

BY HONORABLE COUNCIL MEMBER ROY Mc CALISTER Jr.,

RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF USPS AND THE DETROIT RESIDENTS THEY SERVE

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, The Postmaster General's scheme to dismantle the United States Postal Service (USPS) has been well documented; and

WHEREAS, According to a report published by the Senate's top Democrat in charge of postal oversight, the Postmaster General's controversial midsummer operational directives delayed nearly 350 million pieces of the country's first-class mail in the five weeks they were in effect; and

WHEREAS, Before the changes, the USPS routinely delivered more than 90 percent of the nation's first-class mail on time, according to an analysis of USPS data by the office of Sen. Gary Peters (Mich.), the top Democrat on the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee. Two weeks later on-time delivery rates hovered near 83 percent, entangling prescription medications, benefits checks and ballots in midterm elections; and

WHEREAS, The situation has had an extremely negative impact on our residents, especially our older citizens that rely on the mail for important notices, communications and bills; and

WHEREAS, Those delays appeared especially pronounced in prescription medications, according to another Senate report, published by Sens. Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.) and Robert P. Casey Jr. (D-Pa.). Four prescription drug providers told Warren and Casey, that delivery times this summer have increased by half a day or more on average, compared with earlier this year or similar periods in 2019, according to the report. Deliveries that might typically take two or three days, were instead taking three to four, the lawmakers said, and one pharmacy in particular, saw a "marked increase" in the number of shipping delays of seven or more days; and

WHEREAS, Many critics have noted that the Postmaster General chose to make these changes at the worst possible time, in the midst of a pandemic and months ahead of the 2020 general election, in which a record number of people were expected to vote by mail; and

WHEREAS, There are also staffing issues caused by the coronavirus. Postal workers are understaffed and overworked. Many workers had been pulling 12-hour shifts, six days a week in order to keep up with demand before overtime was eliminated. **BE IT RESOLVED**

RESOLVED, That the Detroit City Council strongly urges for the removal of the U.S. Postmaster General, Louis DeJoy, who is actively undermining the Postal Service's bureaucratic mission and its' employees. **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the office of the Detroit City Clerk, Mayor Duggan, US Senator Gary Peters (D-MI) , the Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, the Michigan delegation in Congress, and the American Postal Workers Union.