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# City of Detroit

## CITY COUNCIL

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TO: COUNCIL MEMBERS

FROM: David Whitaker, Director   
Legislative Policy Division Staff

DATE: July 30, 2021

RE: **RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL CITY FLOOD RESPONSE FUNDING**

Council Member Raquel Castañeda-López requested that the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) draft a RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL CITY FLOOD RESPONSE FUNDING. Attached, please find the requested resolution.

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

**BY COUNCIL MEMBER RAQUEL CASTAÑEDA-LÓPEZ**

**RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF ADDITIONAL CITY FLOOD RESPONSE FUNDING**

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

**WHEREAS,** In a time of unprecedented hardships, illnesses and unemployment all happening in the midst of a worldwide pandemic, in June and continuing in July of this year, the city of Detroit experienced a series of torrential rains, which flooded its freeways, roads and the homes of several Detroiters to a degree not seen in recent years; and

**WHEREAS,** The aftermath of the June flooding events in Detroit left several of its citizens with water logged and un-drivable vehicles and/or with thousands of dollars of damages from flooded basements with unsalvageable carpets, furniture, clothes, irreplaceable keepsakes, water heaters, washers and dryers and other appliances; and

**WHEREAS,** This was not just an ordinary overflow of water that Detroiters have dealt with, but in many cases the unimaginable, a backflow of sewage into their homes, which has made their homes hazardous. Un-remediated, these conditions will make these homes unlivable. This ordeal that thousands of citizens are now experiencing at no fault of their own, has caused an overwhelming hardship, that insurance for the covered and the non-covered, FEMA and the City of Detroit, to-date, have not adequately addressed. The threat of disease and the condemnation of these homes could be a reality for these residents, if no further assistance is granted in the form of immediate and substantial financial support to these desperate citizens from the City of Detroit; and

**WHEREAS,** With over 26,000 claims for assistance, this is an unprecedented disaster that **MUST** be addressed by unprecedented means. So far, the City of Detroit’s efforts to provide assistance, though laudable, which provide for the basement cleaning and sanitizing of homes for residents above the age of 65, disabled, have children aged 10 or under in the household, and those who have an approved poverty tax exemption, fall short in helping many others. However, this effort leaves out a wide range of residents, with no means to recover from the devastating effects of the thousands of dollars of losses and the cost of clean-up, which is also in the thousands as well; and

**WHEREAS,** In order to mitigate these losses, on July 20, 2021, the Detroit City Council approved a resolution to shift \$5 million from the City’s General Fund out of the projected \$7.3 million fund balance, towards the emergency disaster response to the June & July 2021 flood events as a start. The Council is also recommending

that the Administration explore post-haste in finding additional sources of funding to address this hardship and to provide our desperate citizens hope and help, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT**

**RESOLVED,** That the Detroit City Council is hereby strongly urging the Administration to allocate additional general fund surplus dollars toward these flood assistance and mitigation efforts, specifically to assist Detroit residents who are not otherwise eligible for state or federal grant dollars. In addition, the Council also recommends that the Administration with great speed identifies and allocates a substantial source of funding to address this disaster, **NOW THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER**

**RESOLVED,** That copies of this resolution be forwarded to Jay B. Rising, the City of Detroit's Chief Financial Officer; Tanya Stoudemire, Detroit's Chief Deputy CFO - Policy & Administration Director; Steve Watson Detroit's Deputy CFO/City Budget Director and Detroit Mayor Mike Duggan.