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TO: Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director 
Legislative Policy Division

RE: Emergency Preparedness for Mass Casualty and
Other Harmful Incidents REVISED

DATE: August 24, 2022

Council Member Santiago-Romero directed the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to draft a resolution urging every level of government and its partners to take action to reduce, prevent and address mass violence through proven and effective solutions that will make our country safer. That memo and the draft resolution with revisions proposed by Homeland Security are attached.

If Council has any additional questions or concerns, LPD would be happy to provide further research and analysis.

**RESOLUTION TO ASSESS AND PREPARE ADDITIONAL EMERGENCY
RESPONSES TO MASS SHOOTINGS AND OTHER MASS CASUALTY
INCIDENTS IN THE CITY OF DETROIT**

BY COUNCIL MEMBER GABRIELA SANTIAGO-ROMERO

WHEREAS, On May 14, 2022, a white teenage gunman wearing military-style clothing and body armor opened fire with an assault rifle at a supermarket in Buffalo, New York, killing 10 people in a racially motivated hate crime; and

WHEREAS, On Tuesday, May 24, 2022, the lives of nineteen students and two schoolteachers were taken in Uvalde, Texas at Robb Elementary School by another teenage gunman wielding an assault weapon; and

WHEREAS, On the subsequent Memorial Day 2022 weekend, the cities of Philadelphia, Chicago, Charleston, Chattanooga, Houston, Phoenix, Colorado Springs, Memphis, Fresno, and the states of Alabama, Florida, California, Oklahoma, Nevada, and Michigan, all experienced mass shootings where two or more people were injured and/or killed due to gun violence; and

WHEREAS, Since then Detroit has experienced multiple mass shootings, including at least five incidents in the last three months, with two reported just in the weekend of August 7-8, 2022; and

WHEREAS, Emergency preparedness for such mass shooting incidents also includes preparation for many other potential types of mass casualty incidents, each of which presents its own challenges, including climate change-related flooding and fires; ongoing COVID-19 pandemic response, and now the outbreak of monkeypox; emerging evidence of growth and intensive planning among violent hate groups; and other foreseeable causes of mass casualty incidents or other public health threats; and

WHEREAS, The City of Detroit and its local, state and federal homeland security, police and other security professionals have a variety of programs, resources, tools, protocols and forces in readiness, trained and prepared to respond to such tragedies, including natural disasters, terrorism, human-made explosions, fires and toxic spills, as well as the whole range of foreseeable threats to life and safety. Training, planning and other security policies, practices and programs are ongoing among City officials, employees and the general public. Additional engagement with public officials such as the newest 6 members of Council, is a much-needed part of the emergency preparedness process; and

WHEREAS, Especially after the bloody explosion of nationwide crimes of May 2022, this will be an appropriate time to assess the measures and legal authorities currently in place, to adequately educate and discuss with City Council the response plans, protocols and procedures for such calamities, and if necessary, upgrade and improve these measures; and

WHEREAS, One current need of the City's emergency preparedness officials is a Continuity of Government Plan that will include alternate City Council office facilities to ensure

continuance of government operations, in the event of a disaster that renders the Coleman A. Young Municipal Center (CAYMC) temporarily uninhabitable; and

WHEREAS, Council fully recognizes that the City's emergency responders and frontline departments work very closely with other local, regional, state and federal partners to respond and staff the Emergency Operations Center to ensure a coordinated response effort when there is a large-scale emergency or disaster. But more should be done to fully educate City leadership and inform the public of these efforts; and **THEREFORE BE IT**

RESOLVED, Detroit City Council extends an invitation to Detroit Police, Fire, Health and Homeland Security & Emergency Management to deliver a series of annual emergency preparedness informational discussions in each of the seven City Council districts to adequately advise and educate the general public of its efforts to safeguard the City and its people from known or foreseeable public health or mass casualty events that could occur in the City and region.