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TO: The Honorable Detroit City Council

FROM: David Whitaker, Director
Legislative Policy Division Staff 

DATE: March 21, 2025

RE: **RESOLUTION DECLARING MARCH 18 AS DAWN ISON DAY**

City Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway has requested the Legislative Policy Division (LPD) to produce a resolution declaring March 18 as Dawn Ison day in the City of Detroit.

A Resolution by Council Member Angela Whitfield-Calloway

RESOLUTION DECLARING MARCH 18 AS DAWN ISON DAY

- WHEREAS** Attorney Dawn Ison was the first Black woman to be sworn in as U.S. Attorney for the State of Michigan on December 21, 2021, after being nominated by President Joe Biden and confirmed by the U.S. Senate with bipartisan support; and
- WHEREAS** Attorney Ison is a native Detroit and graduate of Cass Technical High School, who later earned her undergraduate degree from Spelman College and her juris doctorate from Wayne State University Law School; and
- WHEREAS** After beginning her career as a prehearing attorney for the Michigan Court of Appeals, Ison worked as a criminal defense attorney for 12 years before being appointed as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan in 2002; and
- WHEREAS** Attorney Ison excelled as an Assistant U.S. Attorney during her 19-year tenure, serving in the Public Corruption Unit, the General Crimes Unit, and the Drug Task Force, where she prosecuted many public corruption and high-profile drug trafficking cases; and
- WHEREAS** From 2010 to 2014, Attorney Ison served as Chief of the Drug Task Force Unit, which is the largest unit in the U.S. Attorney's Office, before serving as the Office's District Election Officer and representing the Office in the federal court's alternative to prison program; and
- WHEREAS** Attorney Ison was repeatedly recognized for her outstanding work as an Assistant U.S. Attorney, earning two U.S. Department of Justice, National and Organized Crime and Drug Task Force Awards, a U.S. Department of Homeland Security Award for Excellence; two U.S. Attorney's Awards for Outstanding Service, and one U.S. Attorney's Award for Superior Performance by a Litigation Team; and
- WHEREAS** While serving as the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Michigan, Attorney Ison prioritized reducing violent crime by pursuing a violence reduction strategy designed to identify evidence-based strategies that have proven to be effective while also focusing on community engagement and transparency in order to build trust and create a coalition of community, government, and law enforcement stakeholders to implement those strategies; and
- WHEREAS** Under Attorney Ison's leadership in 2023, the Office formalized this violence reduction strategy, known as One Eastern District of Michigan ("One EDM"), which is intended to empower local communities to identify and implement the most effective strategies for their communities; and
- WHEREAS** One Detroit was the first One EDM subgroup, which seeks to narrow the focus of enforcement to prioritize the individuals and groups that drive a disproportionate amount of violent crime while balancing this approach with efforts to foster meaningful community relationships, promote prevention and intervention programs, and emphasize prisoner reentry programs from a community perspective; and
- WHEREAS** Attorney Ison is a long-time champion of diversity and inclusion, serving as the Co-Chair of the Federal Bar Association's ("FBA") Diversity Committee where she helped to organize and present the first ever FBA implicit bias seminar; and

WHEREAS With her experience as a victim of crime at a young age and her extensive experience working in the criminal justice system as both a defense attorney and prosecutor, Attorney Ison's lived experience and sense of empathy informs her more holistic and community-focused approach to her work and made her an ideal candidate for her position as U.S. Attorney; and

WHEREAS Attorney Ison embodies the ideal of what it means to be a public servant, carrying out her duties with the integrity, independence, and impartiality necessary to preserve the fair administration of justice and public faith in the U.S. legal system; **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT,**

RESOLVED The Detroit City Council hereby recognizes March 18 as Dawn Ison Day in the City of Detroit; **NOW BE IT FINALLY**

RESOLVED That the Detroit City Clerk provide a copy of this resolution to Dawn Ison.