



DETROIT
JUSTICE
CENTER



Dear Council Member,

The [Detroit & Michigan Chapter of the NLG](#), the [Detroit Justice Center](#), the [National Conference of Black Lawyers](#), [Neighborhood Defender Service](#) Detroit, the [Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association](#), the [State Appellate Defenders Office](#), the [Wolverine Bar Association](#) and [Michigan Liberation](#) are part of a legal coalition formed in response to the police riots in Detroit during the George Floyd uprising.

We stand in solidarity with the larger Detroit community who are calling for charges to be dropped against those arrested while protesting the killing of Black people by police. As legal professionals and allies, we find it unconscionable that young Detroiters should be criminalized and their futures jeopardized for taking a courageous stand on the right side of history.

Hundreds of peaceful protesters took to the streets in order to let their voices be heard against the violent injustice permeating the country. After bearing witness to the deaths of Black men and women at the hands of police officers again and again, the people of Detroit exercised their Constitutional rights to assemble and speak out against the government. While engaging in this protected activity, they were met with a barrage of intimidation tactics levied against them by the DPD. Countless protestors were the target of police brutality, excessive force, and torture. Over 400 protestors were arrested, given misdemeanor citations for disorderly conduct or loitering. While categorized as minor misdemeanors, said offenses do in fact have long-lasting, negative consequences. We cannot let these unjustified criminal charges stand. These brave individuals, many of whom are young people, are fighting for the just world they want to live in.

As members of this legal coalition, we reside throughout the city and are demanding that City Council pass the resolution to drop all charges against the protestors. The City of Detroit has the legal authority right now to dismiss all the charges against every protestor. By passing this resolution, City Council would be taking the much-needed first step to seeing that the City does the right and just thing. No one who marched seeking redress for the indiscriminate killing of Black lives and in furtherance of their First Amendment rights should be punished.

Yours Sincerely,

Detroit & Michigan Chapter of the NLG, the Detroit Justice Center, the National Conference of Black Lawyers, Neighborhood Defender Service Detroit, the Wayne County Criminal Defense Bar Association, the State Appellate Defender Office and Michigan Liberation