



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **OFFICIAL PRESS STATEMENT**

### **CORPORATION COUNSEL: CITY OF DETROIT**

**DETROIT** – The Detroit Branch NAACP announces, with both a sense of pride and regret, its support in the recent announcement of Attorney Melvin Butch Hollowell’s decision to step down as the City of Detroit Corporation Counsel. Attorney Hollowell, who served with distinction as the Detroit Branch NAACP General Counsel, continues to move forward. He will now join the Miller Law Firm as Managing Partner of its new Detroit office. After four years serving as corporation counsel, his record of service to the public and to the ends of equal justice under law have been outstanding. It is particularly significant when one marks his creation of “Project Clean Slate”. Attorney Hollowell recruited 100 lawyers to handle non-violent criminal expungements for free, giving people who desperately needed help a second chance. We congratulate Attorney Hollowell and wish him well in this most significant and influential position.

We also wish to indicate our support for the current nominee of Mayor Duggan, Attorney Lawrence Garcia, as the next corporation counsel. Attorney Garcia is well known through his work for the Hispanic Bar Association of Michigan, serving as its past president. He also served as a member of the NAACP’s legal team, in our challenge to the state of Michigan for its discriminatory redistricting plan. Attorney Garcia is a fierce proponent of inclusion and diversity. We look forward to his work in the city of Detroit. We believe that he will continue the legacy of Attorney Hollowell and others who have preceded him in this uniquely critical responsibility for our city.

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