

# HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 287

Reps. Love, Kuppa, Elder, Hertel, Brixie, Ellison, Hood, Hoadley, Anthony, Cynthia Johnson, Brenda Carter and Wittenberg offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to declare July 21-26, 2020, as Hotter Than July  
2 Week in the state of Michigan on the occasion of the 25th  
3 anniversary of the founding of the event to celebrate and bring  
4 awareness of the black LGBTQ community.

5           Whereas, At the height of the AIDS/HIV pandemic in the 1990's,  
6 information was scarce and paranoia and prejudice were high. In  
7 1994, Curtis Lipscomb returned home to Detroit from New York to  
8 form Kick Publishing Company to provide vital information and  
9 awareness to the LGBTQ community in the middle of the pandemic. It  
10 is only the third black American LGBTQ media company created in the  
11 country; and



1           Whereas, The following year in 1995, Lipscomb, the executive  
2 director of LGBT Detroit, and a group of friends that included  
3 Johnny Jenkins and other Detroit area LGBT organizations formed  
4 Hotter than July to celebrate black gay pride; and

5           Whereas, Prior to 1995, organizers had marshalled busses to  
6 travel to the Washington, D.C. event. They hatched the idea of  
7 creating a uniquely Detroit event and succeeded beyond all  
8 expectations; and

9           Whereas, Hotter than July has continued to thrive and its  
10 proudly chains the title as the world's second oldest black LGBTQ  
11 pride event, second only to Washington, D.C.; and

12           Whereas, Last year, more than 9,000 people were in attendance  
13 at the 2019 Palmer Park Picnic; and

14           Whereas, Hotter than July is much more than just a  
15 celebration. It has evolved into a week-long social justice rally  
16 that creates a multidimensional forum to advocate for equality and  
17 justice; and

18           Whereas, After 25 years, Hotter than July finds itself in the  
19 middle of another pandemic. On its 25th anniversary, Detroit Black  
20 PRIDE, the nation's second oldest behind Washington, D.C. and a  
21 founding member of Center for Black Equity, is working with local  
22 healthcare professionals to implement COVID-19 testing, in addition  
23 to testing for HIV and AIDS; now, therefore, be it

24           Resolved by the House of Representatives, That the members of  
25 this legislative body declare July 21-26, 2020, as Hotter Than July  
26 Week in the state of Michigan on the occasion of the 25th  
27 anniversary of the founding of the event to celebrate and bring  
28 awareness of the black LGBTQ community; and be it further

29           Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to

**1** LGBT Detroit.