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COTS CEO Cheryl P. Johnson elected as New Detroit's board chair

(DETROIT) -- New Detroit announced Cheryl P. Johnson was elected as its new board chair during the racial justice non-profit's latest board of directors meeting. Johnson succeeds Rachel Tronstein Stewart, who was the 55-year-old organization's first woman chair and served in that role since 2018.

"Cheryl is purpose-driven and accomplished. She and the board made history by finally elected the first person of color and Black woman as chair. As the longtime CEO of Coalition On Temporary Shelter (COTS), she transformed the organization's business model into a sophisticated nonprofit enterprise, using the Passport to Self-Sufficiency™ model to change the legacy of generational poverty. Cheryl manages multiple facilities, with a budget of \$8 million. "Cheryl is the perfect person to lead New Detroit as we transform and grow our organization and combat racism," said New Detroit CEO Michael Rafferty. "Cheryl has demonstrated remarkable leadership during her 12 years on the New Detroit board, most recently serving as one of our vice-chairs. I believe she will help us further the mission of dismantling racism and injustice in our boardrooms, classrooms, and all throughout our society.

In addition to her new role as New Detroit's board chair, Johnson also works to further the missions and growth of several local, regional, and state organizations through committed board service.

Out-going chair, Stewart, is the president of Gardner White, the Michigan-based family-owned furniture retailer.

"Rachel led the board through so much transition including a new strategic plan, the hiring of a CEO, and the pandemic that disproportionately continues to impact the lives and livelihood of Detroiters. Her commitment to the mission of creating a more equitable metro Detroit is commended," continued Rafferty. "I thank Rachel for the tremendous progress we have made under her leadership."

New Detroit's board also appointed Reginald Dozier and Kevin Prokop as Vice Chairs, Andrew Stein as Treasurer, and Peter Kellett as Secretary; elected Maja Freij, Patricia McCann, and Monique Stanton as new board members; and recognized out-going members Antoine Garibaldi, Hassan Jaber, Gilda Z. Jacobs, and Paul Riser, Jr.

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ABOUT NEW DETROIT, INC.

New Detroit is a coalition of 57 nonprofit, corporate, and civic leaders working to achieve racial understanding and racial equity in Metropolitan Detroit. We were formed in response to civil unrest in 1967 at the request of then Michigan Governor George Romney, Detroit Mayor Jerome Cavanagh, and business executive Joseph L. Hudson, Jr. to identify what went wrong, what needed to change, and how to make that change happen. Today, NDI moves toward its mission by providing thought leadership, advocating for policy change, and offering direct services including facilitated conversations on race and customized trainings on racial diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ).