

**PROCLAMATION IN RECOGNITION OF
TROY PUBLIC LIBRARY'S
TEEN POETRY TEAM, *ELEMENTS***

WHEREAS, The Troy Public Library has a newly formed **Teen Poetry Team**, called *Elements*, consisting of high school students **Vedika Aigalika**, **Jenny Boudon**, **Zamashenge Buthelezi**, **Raagini Chandra**, **Raul Dutta**, **Sonia Kore**, and **Rashika Rao**; and

WHEREAS, On Saturday, March 19, *Elements* won first prize at *Louder than a Bomb 2016*, a statewide youth poetry competition held at Wayne State University. There were teams from the area including Ann Arbor, Detroit, Madison Heights, and Fraser. This was the Troy Team's very first time participating; and

WHEREAS, **Vedika Aigalika**, **Jenny Boudon**, **Zamashenge Buthelezi**, **Raagini Chandra**, **Raul Dutta**, **Sonia Kore**, and **Rashika Rao**, each individually performed an original poem, then four of the students read a group poem that they all wrote together. Their team score led them to victory; and

WHEREAS, *Louder than a Bomb* brings hundreds of high school poets together in ways that are unthinkable in most other settings. A shared love of writing and performing creates bonds where typically there are boundaries. Students surmount cultural and socio-economic differences to take part in an experience where young writers learn about themselves while listening to the words of others; and

WHEREAS, This is possible because the InsideOut Literary Arts Project has combined friendly competition with a grounded, contemporary and populist approach to poetry. This approach creates a culture where the telling of honest, authentic stories with the voices of young witnesses is not only valued, but is essential to building bridges between isolated populations;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council extends special recognition to the **Troy Public Library's Teen Poetry Team, *Elements***, for their creativity and dedication to poetry, collaboration and friendly competition with other teens throughout this region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Troy City Council and all of Troy's residents congratulate **Vedika Aigalika**, **Jenny Boudon**, **Zamashenge Buthelezi**, **Raagini Chandra**, **Raul Dutta**, **Sonia Kore**, and **Rashika Rao** for being shining examples of teens making a difference and wish all of the high school students continued success in all future endeavors.

Presented this 9th day of May 2016.