**Authority Health advocates for safer streets**

**through stronger enforcement and community education**

We support efforts by Council President Brenda Jones and other members of Detroit City Council to strengthen the existing ordinance that addresses loose dogs and mitigating dog attacks in our communities — especially community education efforts by the city’s Department of Animal Care and Control. Creating safer community spaces requires the work of all community members, but more stringent surveillance and enforcement of city ordinance protects our neighborhoods from loose and aggressive dogs.

Authority Health, on behalf of the MOTION Coalition, is concerned with recent attacks on children by unattended dogs in Detroit. These incidents revive our concerns that the increase in reports of loose dogs in the city is creating an environment that discourages exercise and active living in public spaces.

Many people in Detroit do not belong to gyms and do not have access to city recreation centers. Instead, many community members rely on sidewalks, designated pathways on streets, parks, and greenways for exercise. There are current fears of the potential transmission of rabies from skunks and raccoons to feral dogs in our neighborhoods and how the growing number of dog attacks put our community members at greater risk. We must work to reduce fears of loose dogs and unsafe spaces for physical activity that may hinder our neighbors from getting outside to move and support policies that promote safe community spaces for physical activity. We must bolster existing city ordinances to report, locate, and capture wild dogs and not limit the focus strictly to domesticated dogs and their owners.

To create a healthy community, we need safe streets where pedestrians can feel safe to walk, run, cycle — and play.

**The MOTION Coalition (Michigan Organizations to Impact Obesity and Nutrition) is an initiative of Authority Health that brings together stakeholders across the region to advocate for sustainable changes around healthy eating and physical activity to optimize health and wellbeing. Our vision is “Thriving children, thriving adults, thriving communities.”**