The following is an excerpt from the Regular Meeting of the Madison Heights City Council, Madison Heights, Oakland County, Michigan held on May 27, 2014, at 7:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Present: Mayor Swanson, Mayor Pro Tem Hartwell, Councilmembers Bliss, Clark, Corbett, Scott and Soltis.

Absent: None.

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING LOCAL COMMUNITY STABILIZATION AND PERSONAL PROPERTY TAX REFORM WITHOUT RAISING TAXES

WHEREAS, for years, local governments in Michigan have struggled with unstable funding needed to provide services and Michigan businesses have struggled with an uncompetitive tax on business; and,

WHEREAS, small businesses and manufacturers power our economy and are the largest contributor to job growth in Michigan; and,

WHEREAS, no other state in our region taxes business equipment the way Michigan does – and most of those states don’t tax it at all, which makes Michigan significantly less competitive when it comes to job creation and business investment; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan communities have struggled for years to pay for essential services like police, fire, ambulances, schools and jails; and,

WHEREAS, Michigan communities have relied on the shrinking source of Personal Property Tax revenue to provide other community services as well, including roads, transportation and libraries; and,

WHEREAS, with bipartisan support, the Michigan Legislature has voted to reform the antiquated personal property tax to help increase Michigan’s competitiveness with other states and remove an onerous tax that will allow more business investment and create more jobs while providing a stable revenue source for local communities; and,
WHEREAS, while the proposed reform of personal property tax is not a constitutional amendment, the state constitution requires Michigan voters to approve certain changes in local taxes; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal will make Michigan more competitive, which will help local communities to attract more businesses and talent and create local jobs; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal is supported by the Michigan Municipal League, the Michigan Townships Association, Michigan Association of Chiefs of Police, Michigan Association of Police Organizations, Michigan Community College Association, Michigan Farm Bureau, the Small Business Association of Michigan, Michigan Sheriffs Association, Michigan Chamber of Commerce, National Association of Independent Businesses and the Michigan Manufacturers Association, among others.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of Madison Heights hereby expresses its strong support for the proposal to eliminate the unfair double tax and strengthen our communities. City Council urges our residents to vote YES on this proposal on August 5, 2014.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that a certified copy of this Resolution be sent to State Representative Jim Townsend, State Senator John Pappageorge, and the Michigan Municipal League.

CERTIFICATION:

I, Cheryl E. Printz, the duly appointed City Clerk of the City of Madison Heights, County of Oakland, State of Michigan, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a resolution adopted by the Madison Heights City Council at their Regular Meeting held on May 27, 2014.

Cheryl E. Printz
City Clerk