

**CITY OF FARMINGTON  
AND  
CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS  
SPECIAL MEETING**

**JOINTLY FUNDED AGENCIES BUDGETS  
May 3, 2007**

A special meeting of the Farmington/Farmington Hills City Councils and the Jointly Funded Agencies was held on Thursday, May 3, 2007 at the 47th District Court, Upstairs Jury Room, 31605 W. Eleven Mile Road, Farmington Hills, Michigan. Notice of the meeting was posted in compliance with Public Act 267-1976.

The meeting was called to order by Farmington Hills Mayor Barnett at 7:35 p.m.

**FARMINGTON COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tom Buck, Valerie Knol, JoAnne McShane, Michael Wiggins, and David Wright.

**FARMINGTON CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

City Clerk Susan Halberstadt, City Manager Vincent Pastue.

**FARMINGTON HILLS COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Nancy Bates, Vicki Barnett, Barry Brickner, Randy Bruce, Kenneth Massey and Cheryl Oliverio (arrived at 8:00 p.m.).

**FARMINGTON HILLS CITY REPRESENTATIVES PRESENT:**

City Manager Steve Brock, City Clerk Kathy Dornan, and Finance Director Robert Spaman.

Farmington Hills Mayor Barnett welcomed everyone to the meeting and asked Todd Lipa of the Mayor's Youth Council to give the first presentation.

**MAYOR'S YOUTH COUNCIL**

Present: Todd Lipa, Joshua Eby

Joshua Eby, member of the Mayors' Youth Council, spoke about activities of the Council over the past year including: attendance at the 2006 NLC Conference; fundraisers; and participation in youth dialogues with City of Detroit students sponsored by the University of Michigan.

Todd Lipa discussed the Youth Council's participation in the youth dialogues program and the fundraising effort necessary to participate, but noted those same funds would be returned to them by the University. He advised the University would like to bring a pilot program to Farmington Public Schools to conduct a diversity dialogue conversation between Farmington and Farmington Hills students.

Eby highlighted additional activities of the Youth Council including: battle of the bands, nursing home outreach and a recruitment event. He thanked both Councils for their continued support.

Councilmember Ellis asked about funds raised for attendance at the NLC conference. Lipa responded that approximately \$3,500-\$4,000 was raised.

Mayor McShane expressed appreciation for the wonderful job the Mayors' Youth Council is doing.

Mayor Barnett stated the Council is doing a tremendous job and thanked its members for their contribution.

### **COMMISSION ON CHILDREN, YOUTH & FAMILIES**

Present: Todd Lipa and John Golaszewski

John Golaszewski, Chairperson of the Commission on Children, Youth & Families (CYF), discussed several initiatives of the Commission including: volunteer recognition ceremony; cable show hosted by Mary Mullison addressing subjects such as internet safety; and distribution of brochures at the Farmington Hills Open House.

Todd Lipa thanked the Councils for their support in recognizing volunteers each year.

Golaszewski noted CYF is a co-sponsor with Michigan School for Professional Psychology in providing "Turning Job Loss into Opportunity" conferences.

Discussion followed regarding the critical need in this community for addressing the problem of unemployment. Councilmember Ellis suggested a study session to address this concern.

### **FARMINGTON AREA COMMISSION ON AGING**

Present: Lewis Cantor

Lewis Cantor stated the Commission's statement is to promote the dignity and well-being of older adults through education and advocacy. He noted the Commission celebrates its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. He discussed a number of activities in which the Commission is involved including: Project Healthy Living; volunteer recognition luncheon; and advocacy for senior housing. He noted through Project Healthy Living over 4,000 seniors have received health exams.

Cantor stated he has compiled a list of employment services, job networking groups and websites for those seeking employment.

Cantor requested Councils' support for the Commission's \$3,000 budget request which he noted has not changed for several years. He further noted the Commission's

directory will be published this year at an approximate cost of \$1,500. He stated any money saved on printing the directory will be used for advocacy and promoting Project Healthy Living.

Councilmember Bates asked about the status of senior housing and whether there are waiting lists. City Manager Brock stated he would provide current information on availability of senior housing, however, he noted that subsidized housing always has a waiting list.

Councilmember Massey asked if the Commission was at capacity for Project Healthy Living. Mr. Cantor responded that the Project could accommodate additional participation because it has not reached its capacity of 300 people.

Mayor McShane asked if there is an increased need to provide assistance to families who keep elderly parents at home. Mr. Cantor responded there is growth in this area but does not have data available to show how much.

Mayor Barnett noted the Commission's request to offset the costs of the directory through advertising. She suggested the Council may want to address the issue of advertising on City sponsored venues and communications at a special meeting.

Discussion followed regarding the benefits and liabilities of using sponsors for the directory. Discussion continued regarding concern over exclusive advertising and the need for equitable treatment of sponsors.

Councilmember Ellis recommended leaving the directory alone for this year.

#### **47TH DISTRICT COURT**

Present: Dave Walsh, Court Administrator; Stacy Parke, Deputy Court Administrator, and 47th District Court Judges Marla Parker and James Brady.

Dave Walsh briefly discussed the accomplishments and workload of the Court over the last year. He noted overall traffic caseloads increased significantly, however, Farmington has seen a downturn in the first three months of this year. He sees this as a minor blip since April appeared to be going up. He stated the upward trend in landlord cases continues with almost a 100% increase in the last five years.

Walsh discussed the success of the collections program which has brought in an additional \$1.5 million in revenue since its inception in April 2003. He stated this program is being modeled around the state.

Walsh noted another reason for the success of the collections program was the implementation of government payment systems which allows individuals to pay over the phone and online.

Walsh stated the proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2007/08 is extremely lean. He noted that every department was reviewed to determine where cutbacks could be made and increased efficiencies realized.

Discussion followed regarding revenue related to drunk driving cases.

Councilmember Ellis expressed pride in the Court building and thanked Court Administrator Walsh for spearheading its construction.

Walsh noted a change in statute that would greatly increase the Court costs for Court appointed attorneys. He stated this increased cost would likely be a line item in next year's budget.

Judge Marla Parker discussed the success of sobriety court and related programs that have been added.

Responding to a question from Mayor Barnett, Mr. Walsh discussed the cost containment relative to the employee healthcare program.

*The following budget item was added to the agenda at the request of City Manager Brock.*

#### **HEADSTART – EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM**

Present: Richard Tupper and Phyllis Howard

Phyllis Howard discussed a request for joint funding of early childhood development in the form of Headstart. She advised that the Farmington/Farmington Hills children involved are at-risk preschoolers. She stated if these children are behind starting kindergarten they will *never* catch up to their peers. She noted the Federal government cut the Headstart program by 1% last year and \$30,000 scholarship money provided by Farmington Public Schools is no longer available. She further discussed the many benefits the Headstart Program provides to the community.

Responding to a question from Mayor Barnett, Ms. Howard stated they would like full funding for 35 children between the two cities who are eligible for the program but aren't covered due to a lack of funds.

Councilmember Ellis asked what determines a preschooler's eligibility to participate in the program. Ms. Howard responded the program uses state and federal criteria for determining an at-risk child. She stated currently 150 children are eligible for the program, however, only 111 children participate due to a lack of funding. She further stated the criteria for eligibility are weighted and the highest needs children are admitted first.

Discussion followed regarding the difficulty of using Easter Seal funds for this program due to transportation and other issues.

Councilmember Oliverio stated this program is extremely important and expressed support for its funding.

Councilmember Bates stated a community must treasure and support its children. She expressed concern that the federal and state governments are passing their responsibility onto taxpayers and as a result we may have children in good shape but not enough police to take care of them. She asked how to get the people who should be responsible to assume their responsibility.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Buck, Ms. Howard stated matching funds from Neighborhood House would be limited.

Responding to a question from Mayor McShane, Ms. Howard responded she is requesting funding for the Fall and would provide a memo regarding how many children in each of the communities are eligible for the program.

Discussion followed regarding publicizing the needs of the Headstart program and seeking sponsorships.

Councilmember Massey asked about the residential stability of program participants. Ms. Howard stated there were only six transient students participating last year.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wiggins, Ms. Howard stated that other school districts are doing very little in this area. She stated districts are very reluctant to take on any additional expense.

Councilmember Bruce also expressed concern regarding passing down the costs of supporting at-risk children, however, the needs of these children must be met.

Responding to a question from Councilmember Wiggins, Ms. Howard stated this is a one-year request to demonstrate that the programs works, however, she expressed her hope that funding would continue.

Councilmember Bruce stated schools are being short sighted when they cut funding to this type of program because early intervention reduces the need for special education which can be very expensive.

Councilmember Ellis stated the Federal government who implemented this program has dropped the ball and it should not be a state or school problem. He stated the community has a responsibility to support these children.

Councilmember Barnett expressed support for this program and the community must make a statement regarding its importance.

### **FARMINGTON AREA YOUTH ASSISTANCE**

Present: Ed Cleland, Cindy Cotrell, Louann Goldblatt, Pamela Lyle, Jim Mitchell and Ambrish Sundaram.

Jim Mitchell, Chairman of the Farmington Area Youth Assistance, introduced fellow members and spoke about a number of partnerships the Youth Assistance has undertaken. He discussed the organization's recent participation in a goal-setting program and requested Ambrish Sundaram share some of those goals.

Mr. Sundaram identified goals and strategies of Farmington Youth Assistance including: increase the number of youth serving the community; increase impact on youth; improve programming and services to youth; increase the number of volunteers; and identify funding resources.

Cindy Cotrell discussed family education programs Youth Assistance provides including: eating disorder prevention; raising adolescents; step-family training; transitioning children through divorces; and developing children's self-esteem.

Mr. Mitchell noted that Dr. Bruce and Larry Herren have done a lot to work with the committee to develop some of the educational programs.

Mr. Mitchell stated Youth Assistance is seeking the same level of funding as last year. He discussed seeking funds from public and private organizations and fundraising efforts including "Taste of the Farms" event.

Ed Cleland briefly discussed "Taste of the Farms" event scheduled for September 20, 2007 at Glen Oaks Golf Club. In terms of fundraising efforts, he indicated the Skillman Foundation has offered to match donations up to \$12,500.

Pamela Lyle, Youth Assistance Caseworker, provided a brief report on casework services. She stated 156 referrals were received last year which was up 11% over the previous year. She discussed some current trends including an increase in alcohol and tobacco use.

Louann Goldblatt, Vice Chairperson, discussed a summer camp sponsored by Youth Assistance and operated by the YMCA. She stated they enroll up to 100 kids in the program. She noted they have added an educational component to the camp and that it is endorsed by school administration.

Mr. Mitchell stated they are putting the finishing touches on a website and discussed their publicity efforts.

### **FARMINGTON AREA ARTS COMMISSION**

Present: Nancy Coumoundouros, Beverly Ellis, J. A. McErlean, Jim McGlincy.

Nancy Coumoundouros introduced two new members to the Commission: J.A. McErlean and Jim McGlincy. She expressed hope that the arts would avoid significant state budget cuts.

Coumoundouros noted the uniqueness of the Cultural Arts Division and that it sets this community apart from others. She cited the recent success of the "Festival of the Arts." She discussed the number of programs that are currently offered, noting class participation has gone up 33%. She stated the biggest problem facing the Cultural Arts Division is meeting the demand for more programs.

Councilmember Bruce noted that Ms. Coumoundouros recently received an award at the White House for her work on the "Art Train."

Ms. Coumoundouros stated the importance of keeping art at the community level.

### **EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMISSION**

Present: Ken Massey

Ken Massey, Chairperson of the Emergency Preparedness Commission, reviewed the number of activities in which the Commission is involved including: cable shows, distribution of handbooks, and essay contest for school age children. He noted there is no increase in the Commission's budget request. He recognized the significant amount of volunteer time required by the Commission.

*The following additional budget item was added to the agenda at the request of City Manager Brock.*

### **COMMUNITY MUSICAL PERFORMANCE FUNDING**

Mayor Barnett advised that the funding for an annual community musical performance held at North Farmington High School has been cut by the Farmington School District due to budget constraints. She requested that the communities help fund this program along with the school district.

Councilmember Knol noted that the Farmington/Farmington Hills community already has the Players Barn that provides quality productions throughout the year. She expressed concern regarding where the communities draw the line on what to fund.

There being no further comment the Councils concurred to adjourn the meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.

CITY OF FARMINGTON

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JoAnne M. McShane, Mayor

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Susan K. Halberstadt, City Clerk

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CITY OF FARMINGTON HILLS

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Vicki Barnett, Mayor

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Kathryn A. Dornan, City Clerk

APPROVED: July 16, 2007

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Mayor¶  
Susan K. Halberstadt, City  
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Vicki Barnett, Mayor¶  
Kathryn A. Dornan, City  
Clerk¶