

from these appointments. City Manager Myers stated that the Community Development staff will respond directly to Ms. Smith.

CM-15-234. Resolution to Establish the Multicultural Relations Advisory Board.

Motion by Councilman Soltis, seconded by Councilwoman Scott, to adopt the following resolution establishing the Multicultural Relations Advisory Board:

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR THE CREATION, MEMBERSHIP, STRUCTURE AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF A MULTICULTURAL RELATIONS ADVISORY BOARD TO ADVISE THE CITY COUNCIL ON HUMAN RELATIONS AND DIVERSITY-RELATED ISSUES; TO RECOMMEND POLICIES, PROGRAMS, SERVICES, AND EVENTS WHICH ENHANCE HUMAN RELATIONS AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY; TO COMMUNICATE ACCURATE AND RESPECTFUL INFORMATION IN ORDER TO EDUCATE THE COMMUNITY ON THE CITY'S RICH CULTURAL HERITAGE, AND TO PROMOTE EQUALITY AND UNITY AND TO ACT AS A RESOURCE FOR INTERCULTURAL AWARENESS, EDUCATION, AND CELEBRATION AMONG ALL PEOPLE

WHEREAS, Madison Heights has become a city of different races and cultures, religions and beliefs, and experiences and traditions with a cultural life, economy, livability and neighborhoods that have been enriched by this growing diversity; and,

WHEREAS, the existence of a thriving and diverse community has also raised complex questions about how to build a truly inclusive city; and WHEREAS, the principles of representative democracy require that the interests of all people be heard and considered in the establishment and administration of ordinances and policies, and in the general governing of the City; and,

WHEREAS, the community will benefit from the creation of an advisory board, focused on cultural relations, with a mission to create greater cohesion in our community by promoting mutual respect, dignity and open communication among all people; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Madison Heights strives to promote and foster goodwill, and through cooperation and conciliation among all groups and segments of the population, to eliminate and prevent within its boundaries discrimination, segregation or separation because of race, color, national origin or ancestry.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Madison Heights, Michigan, determines that it is advisable, desirable, and to the overall benefit of the City of Madison Heights, Michigan, to create and

establish a Council-appointed Multicultural Relations Advisory Board, which shall act in an advisory capacity to the City Council so as to insure the implementation of the purposes set forth below.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED as follows:

1. The purpose of the Multicultural Relations Advisory Board is to advise the City Council on issues related to or affecting minority communities within Madison Heights, to monitor the policies and practices of the City of Madison Heights with respect to fair and equitable application, and to act as a resource for intercultural awareness, education, and celebration among all people.
2. The Board shall be comprised of nine (9) voting members and one (1) non-voting staff representative appointed by the City Manager. The voting members shall consist of a Councilmember Delegate (and Alternate), and eight (8) Madison Heights residents appointed by City Council.
3. The Council Delegate and Alternate shall be appointed for a two-year term ending in November of odd numbered years. Vacancies in any term shall be filled by the Mayor and City Council in like manner for the balance of the unexpired term.
4. The eight (8) citizen members shall be appointed for a term of three (3) years; however, the initial appointments to the Board shall be staggered such that four (4) members are appointed to a term of three (3) years; two (2) members are appointed to a term of two (2) years; and two (2) members are appointed to a term of one (1) year. Vacancies in any term shall be filled by the Mayor and City Council in like manner for the balance of the unexpired term.
5. Community organizations that represent cultural relations interests will be advised of the creation of the Board and encouraged to participate.
6. The Board shall appoint a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, and Secretary from among the eight (8) resident members.
7. For the first six (6) months, the Board shall meet on a monthly basis, with additional meetings thereafter scheduled as required and agreed upon by the Board. All Meetings shall be noticed and conducted in accordance with the Michigan Open Meetings Act (1976 PA 267, MCL 15.261 through 15.275, as amended).
8. Five (5) voting members of the Board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. A majority of affirmative votes of the Board shall be required for adoption and recommendation of any proposed action of the Board.

9. The staff representative shall assist the Board in the performance of its duties and notify members of the date, time, and place of meetings of the Board.
10. The Board shall: a) Serve in an advisory role to the City Council on human relations and diversity-related issues; b) Serve as a resource and an advocate on behalf of the community on human relations and cultural diversity issues; c) Review, suggest and champion policies, programs, services, and events, which enhance human relations and cultural diversity by consciously and consistently seeking to serve all residents; d) Build purposeful relationships with residents, the outlying community, Council, other City leadership and a wide range of local, state, national and international groups, agencies and organizations to respect diversity and promote unity in the City; e) Communicate accurate and respectful information in order to educate the community of the City's rich cultural heritage and diversity; f) Provide support/vision to the staff to promote the cultural initiatives and events as identified by the Board and approved by the Council; g) Identify opportunities to increase the awareness of cultural diversity among citizens by establishing ongoing dialogue and interaction to promote respect for diversity among all citizens within the City.
11. This resolution shall be effective on the date adopted below. ADOPTED by the City Council of the City of Madison Heights, Michigan, this 24th day of August, 2015.

Councilwoman Scott suggested that one member of the commission belong to the Community Round Table and one be a youth delegate.

Mayor Pro Tem Corbett thanked Councilman Soltis for bringing this idea forward; it fits with our community as it progresses.

Councilman Bliss also thanked Councilman Soltis for the concept, stating that there is a need in the community for this type of board and it is relevant for today.

Councilman Soltis stated that he appreciates Council's support. He noted that he has already received a dozen inquiries to serve on the commission and he agrees with Councilwoman Scott's membership suggestions.

Yeas: Corbett, Gettings, Scott, Soltis, Bliss, Clark, Swanson

Nays: None

Motion Carried