OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

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FROM THE OFFICE OF MAYOR MAUREEN MILLER BROSNAN – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Livonia Chamber of Commerce supports efforts to pass Non-Discrimination Ordinance

Proposed ordinance would be first update to Livonia non-discrimination laws since 1982

The Livonia Chamber of Commerce has endorsed efforts to pass a non-discrimination ordinance in the City of Livonia. The adoption of a new ordinance would be the first update to the City's non-discrimination laws since 1982.

A non-discrimination ordinance would extend protections for LGBTQ+ community members, among other protected classes, in real estate transactions, housing, employment and public accommodations citywide. Nearly 60 other Michigan municipalities have already adopted non-discrimination ordinances.

"Diversity, equity and inclusion are not just values our community holds, rather, they are priorities that Livonia residents have come together to ask us to advance in real ways," said **Livonia Mayor Maureen Miller Brosnan**. "A non-discrimination ordinance will help us build on our work in transparency and accountability that Livonia residents and community members expect from their City government."

Mayor Brosnan has proposed a non-discrimination ordinance, drafted in partnership by the Livonia Human Relations Commission and the City's Law and Police Departments, for adoption by the Livonia City Council. The proposed ordinance builds on existing language from the City's code of ordinances, centralizing the responsibility for receiving and reviewing discrimination complaints within the City's Law Department.

"Over the last year, the Livonia Human Relations Commission has worked with Mayor Brosnan and the City administration to develop an ordinance that makes a more defined statement of our community's values," said **Human Relations Commission Chair Rich**

Glover. "This ordinance supports fair and equal treatment of individuals in public spaces across our community."

"This ordinance is long overdue," said **Glover**. "The last time the City of Livonia's non-discrimination policies were reviewed was 1982, and I am excited and encouraged by the collaborative approach the Livonia Human Relations Commission took in working with the City's Law Department and Police Department to bring forward this important proposal to expand protections for everyone -- Livonia residents and visitors."

"Earlier this year, I instituted a non-discrimination policy for City operations that expands these protections for employees and residents in City buildings when accessing public services," said **Mayor Brosnan**. "But there is no replacing the expanded protections a non-discrimination ordinance would offer the entire community. So, I'm asking the City Council to move expeditiously in approving the ordinance our Law Department has introduced."

"The Livonia Police Department stands in support of this ordinance," said **Acting Police Chief Tom Goralski**, who was announced as Livonia's next Chief of Police in June. "This is a common-sense measure that will help keep everyone who lives, works and plays in Livonia safe and protect their rights."

PFLAG Livonia, the city's largest organization serving LGBTQIA+ individuals and their families, issued the following statement in support of the proposed non-discrimination ordinance: "A non-discrimination ordinance that protects the rights of all Livonia residents and visitors is an important step in demonstrating that our community respects the humanity and dignity of all people, including our LGBTQIA+ neighbors, friends and family. With those protections and assurances in place, new opportunities will arise for commerce, culture, employment and a sense of belonging in our city."

"On behalf of Madonna University, we whole-heartedly endorse the non-discrimination ordinance which has been introduced to Livonia City Council," said **Dr. Michael Grandillo, President of Madonna University**. "It validates our mission and values, and I am sure mirrors those of the City we call home."

"As a proud minority enterprise NYX is unwavering in its support of diversity and inclusion on all levels," said **Jatinder-Bir Sandu**, **CEO** and **Chairman of NYX**, **LLC**. "With more than 2,000 employees in the City of Livonia, we believe the proposed NDO exemplifies Livonia's ongoing commitment to the people who live and work in Livonia and the understanding that diversity and inclusion is a matter of equity and a means to both promote the growth of the city and the businesses who choose to be here. We applaud the Mayor and members of City Council for their efforts to move this NDO forward."

"As a strong community partner, we ask the Livonia City Council to enact the proposed non-discrimination ordinance," said **Keith Allman, President and Chief Executive Officer of Masco**, a Fortune 500 company headquartered in Livonia. "An NDO is not only important to promote respect and equity within the City but is good for all

businesses, small and large, as well. In order for businesses like Masco to attract and retain talent, it is imperative that we have an 'arms wide open' environment in the community in which our employees work."

"The foundation of any community is a sense of belonging," the Mayor said. "With the adoption of this ordinance, all Livonia residents and visitors could be sure our City government is unequivocally stating: you belong here."

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Link to Proposed Non-Discrimination Ordinance