

CITY OF ANN ARBOR
CITY CLERK
REC'D

City of Farmington Hills, Oakland County, Michigan
RESOLUTION R-151-11

**In Support of Remediating Statutory Court Funding Inequities
among Communities**

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Brickner and supported by Councilmember Oliverio:

- WHEREAS, the district court jurisdictional structure in Oakland County was created in 1968 by MCL 600.8123, establishing nine separate third class district courts and a single, four division second class district court; and
- WHEREAS, MCL 600.8103 vests responsibility for “maintaining, financing and operating” third class district courts to the political subdivisions comprising the district while assigning those responsibilities to the County for second class district courts; and
- WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2010-11, Farmington Hills and Farmington contributed \$3,008,527 to the operating budget of the 47th District Court and an additional \$867,825 toward the debt on the 47th District Court facility amounting to a total fiscal year investment of \$3,876,352; and
- WHEREAS, for fiscal year 2010-11, Farmington Hills and Farmington received \$3,019,193 in court-generated revenue resulting in a net total expenditure on court operations and facility of \$857,159; and
- WHEREAS, cities, townships and villages in Oakland County under the jurisdiction of the second class 52nd District Court, including Novi, Troy, Rochester/Rochester Hills, and Clarkston, made no direct contribution to the operations of a district court, but received one third of the court-generated revenue on cases from their jurisdiction (e.g. Troy budgeted \$1,212,000 in fines/forfeiture revenue for 2011 with no court-related expenditures); and
- WHEREAS, the taxpayers of third class district communities such as Farmington Hills and Farmington pay property taxes to Oakland County to support the 52nd District Court, from which they receive no services, while also paying taxes to support district court services in their own communities, unlike communities within the jurisdiction of the 52nd District Court.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Farmington Hills does hereby recommend and support amending and restructuring the state funding of third class judicial districts—whether by legislation, revisions to the statutory revenue sharing distribution formula, or other action—to address and remedy the financial inequity third class judicial district funding units/taxpayers must bear compared to those communities/taxpayers within the jurisdiction of a second class district court in the same county.

AYES: Brickner, Bruce, Ellis and Oliverio
NAYS: None
ABSENT: Bates, Bridges and Massey
ABSTENTIONS: None

Adopted this 10th Day of October, 2011

I, Pamela Smith, City Clerk of the City of Farmington Hills, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a Resolution unanimously adopted by the Farmington Hills City Council at its regular meeting held on October 10, 2011.



Pamela Smith, City Clerk

Dated: October 11, 2011